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Hariri gets Kuwaiti promises of help

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri left here Wednesday with Kuwaiti promises to contribute more to Lebanon's post-war reconstruction, Lebanese officials and a Kuwaiti economist said. Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and other officials promised Mr. Hariri that the emirate was ready to help Lebanon rebuild from its 1975-1990 civil war, a Lebanese official travelling with Mr. Hariri said. The director general of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFED), Bader Al Homadi, will visit Lebanon by Friday to discuss another loan, another Lebanese official said.

Israelis fire at Lebanese gunboat

TYRE (AP) — Two Israeli helicopters fired warning shots at a Lebanese navy gunboat Wednesday when it strayed into waters off Israel's self-styled "security zone" while chasing fishermen illegally using dynamite to catch fish. Security sources said the gunboat was not hit. It was the first time that Israeli helicopters had fired on a Lebanese naval vessel.

OAU to discuss Libyan crisis

CAIRO (AFP) — Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim said Wednesday that he expected the pan-African body to discuss Libya's dispute with the West over the Lockerbie bombing. Mr. Salim told a press briefing that Libya had requested that the matter be brought before the OAU, whose foreign ministers are meeting here to prepare next week's African summit. "I expect that some discussion of this issue will take place."

Businessman challenges Mubarak

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian businessman has launched a solitary and almost certainly doomed challenge to replace Hosni Mubarak as president of Egypt when his second six-year term runs out in October. Ahmad Kamel, 52, a business consultant from the Mediterranean City of Alexandria, told Reuters on Wednesday: "I'm really serious about my nomination for the presidency." Officials scoffed at the attempt and one called Mr. Kamel a lunatic. The state-run newspaper Al-Akhbar published two paragraphs about his challenge on its front page under the headline "Democracy in Egypt."

Quake jolts Iran city

NICOSIA (AP) — A powerful earthquake jolted the city of Gachsaran in southwestern Iran, destroying 70 houses and injuring several people, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Wednesday. The agency said the quake in the province of Kohgiluyeh-Boyer-Ahmad struck at 21:04 (1634 GMT) Tuesday, and measured 5.6 on the open-ended Richter scale. Electricity and water supplies in Gachsaran and nearby villages, which also suffered damage, were cut off, IRNA said. It said roads to 11 villages near Gachsaran were closed due to landslides.

All in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Former boxing ace Mohammad Ali has arrived in Tehran on his way to Baghdad to mediate the release of prisoners remaining from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, Iran's IRNA news agency said on Wednesday. It said the former heavyweight champion, making his second visit to Iran since May, arrived Tuesday night. He would stay in Iran for three days before setting out on his mediation mission to Baghdad.

Iran seizes drugs

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian authorities seized 2,338 kilograms of various drugs and arrested 882 suspected traffickers in a series of raids this month, state-run radio said Wednesday. The security forces smashed thirteen gangs of smugglers, Tehran Radio said without giving further details. The anti-drug squad chief, Ali Soofi, said 8,615 drug addicts were also arrested, according to the radio.

King: Clinton assured tragedy of Palestinians would be overcome

His Majesty, however, calls for clarifying for Palestinians what the end result may be

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — King Hussein called Wednesday for Middle East negotiators to provide the Palestinians with a clear idea of what their future would be in a settlement with Israel. He also offered closer ties between Jordan and the Palestinians. The King did not elaborate. Some analysts have suggested Jordan could be a moderating influence on any Palestinian self-ruling authority. Appearing at a gathering of 250 Middle East specialists and journalists at Brookings Institution, a research organisation, the King said his government insists that the peace process produce a settlement "that future generations can accept and live with."

It must uphold interests of the Palestinians, who "yearn to have their legitimate rights on their land," he asserted. King Hussein has been here for a week, trying to repair the strain in relations caused by the King's criticism of the U.S.-led coalition that liberated Kuwait from Iraq in 1991.

"We identify with the United States," he said. "We've been warmly received. In the world of



very rapid change I believe the warmth has returned to our friendship." King Hussein said President Bill Clinton has assured him "the tragedy" of the Palestinians would be overcome. As King Hussein spoke peace talks plodded on at the State Department without evident sign of progress. The most productive front is Israel's talks with Jordan. The King said Tuesday he was

satisfied with a statement of principles worked out by Israeli and Jordanian negotiators (see separate story).

Far more difficult is the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations over some form of self-rule for the Palestinians on the West Bank and in Gaza.

King Hussein said there was "a need to clarify for the Palestinians what the end result might look like." He described the possibilities as "limitless" and declared Jerusalem, which Israel has declared as its "indivisible capital," of equal importance to three religions.

The Palestinians are insisting that the negotiations lay the groundwork for an independent state of Palestine with its capital in Jerusalem.

King Hussein said he prefers continuing the current Middle East diplomatic negotiations over a suggested dramatic meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The King was asked by an Israeli television reporter if he would consider meeting the prime minister of Israel in occupied Jerusalem.

(Continued on page 5)

Israel proposes speeding up Palestinian empowerment

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israel has proposed speeding up the transfer of some governing responsibilities in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to the Palestinians, in an effort to spur ahead Middle East peace talks here.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Wednesday that he was personally involved in the current round of Middle East peace talks, and said he was hopeful they would make progress.

"It is still early in this round of talks," Mr. Christopher said. "The United States has been playing its role of full partner... we have been very active on all fronts."

At the close of Tuesday's meeting, Israeli delegate Elyakim Rubinstein proposed accelerating the transfer of responsibilities in education, health, tourism, welfare, labour and other domains to the Palestinians.

The Israeli military in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip now hire local Palestinians to carry out those functions.

"This proposal is aimed at facilitating the establishment of an interim autonomous authority, not to substitute it. It is important to get down to brass tacks as soon

as possible," Mr. Rubinstein said.

Hanan Ahsrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, said Tuesday that her team would respond to the Israeli proposal after consulting with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Dr. Ahsrawi stressed the Israeli proposal "is not new" and that its purpose was to "shatter the powers of the future Palestinian autonomous authority into little pieces."

"We want to reach a global agreement and an elected autonomous authority... we do not want to become mere civil servants of the Israeli occupation," she added.

Palestinian deputy chief negotiator Saeb Erakat said that he considered the Israeli proposal "premature."

"I think we'll make good progress in this round before the round is done," Mr. Christopher told reporters at the 10th round of the Arab-Israeli talks continued elsewhere in the State Department building.

"I think I'd guide you to watch these matters develop over the next several days," he said.

Dr. Ahsrawi said the most vital issues for the Palestinians are the Israeli settlements in the occu-

pied territories and the future of Arab East Jerusalem.

Palestinians said Tuesday during a meeting with Dennis Ross, the U.S. State Department's special coordinator for the Middle East, that they want an autonomous East Jerusalem.

Syrians and Israelis meanwhile resumed talks Wednesday, with Damascus continuing to demand that Israel withdraw from the occupied territories, most notably the Golan Heights.

Israel had demanded that before it withdraws its forces from Golan Heights, the two countries must first normalise relations and exchange ambassadors and that Damascus define its concept of peace.

Syria's chief negotiator called on the Clinton administration Tuesday to persuade Israel to give up all of the Golan Heights.

With negotiations at the State Department stalemated, Muwaffaq Al Alal said the administration should step in "not to negotiate for the parties but only to ensure that the parties do respect the resolutions on which the peace process is based."

"Unless Israel changes its position and unless the U.S. tries to

(Continued on page 5)



MOROCCAN HUSTINGS: Amina Lemrini (right), a communist candidate in legislative elections in Morocco, campaigns Wednesday in a shantytown near Rabat. There are only 33 female candidates in the election (AFP photo)

Experts present shared vision of Palestinian economy, role

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli economists have presented a 115-page report outlining a shared vision for the region in which Palestinians would take immediate charge of their economy and trade freely with Israel and Jordan, press reports from occupied Jerusalem said Wednesday.

The report is being shown to Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian leaders and could become a reference document for Middle East peace talks, now in their 10th round in Washington, sponsors of the project told the Associated Press.

Sources in Amman confirmed

the participation of Jordanian economists in the discussions leading to the final report but said that they were carried "in a third track on the periphery of Middle East peace negotiations."

The sources, however, pointed out that the final ideas were the conclusions reached by Harvard University "and they do not necessarily depict the points of view of individuals who participated in the project."

According to news agencies quoting sponsors of the project, the 34 economists did not represent official positions, but several serve as advisers to the peace talks.

"What we have done is give all three parties a document with which they can work," Leonard

Hausman, a Harvard University economist, told a news conference in occupied Jerusalem. "They have here the blueprint for a fundamental transformation in economic relations."

In the peace talks, Israel and the Palestinians are negotiating an agreement for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories would begin in the third year of autonomy.

The economists said Wednesday that with self-rule, Israel should give the Palestinians immediate and complete control over their economy, including the ability to sign foreign trade agreements.

(Continued on page 5)

Peres urges tripartite confederation

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called Wednesday for a confederation between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians.

"I propose setting up an Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian confederation," Mr. Peres told a World Zionist Organisation meeting at Qiryat Sbeimona in northern Israel.

"I believe it is possible to achieve an agreement with the Palestinian people. I propose an economic Benelux in the Middle East," he said referring to the successful Belgium-Netherlands-Luxembourg axis.

Mr. Peres urged the Arab countries to pursue the Middle East peace process, "consistent with the spirit of a new world order," and cited the economic development of the Far East as an example to follow.

U.N. puts up Aideed 'wanted' posters; warlord thumbs nose

MOGADISHU — The United Nations printed wild west-style "wanted" posters in Somalia on Wednesday offering a reward for the capture of warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed, the U.N.'s public enemy number one.

"Wanted" said the poster in Somali over a passable hand-drawn likeness of the 57-year-old man the U.N. holds responsible for the killing of 24 Pakistani U.N. troops on June 5 which plunged the capital back into violence.

The U.N. posters were printed the day after General Aideed was interviewed in hiding by two American media organisations and proclaimed his determination to defy a six-day-old arrest warrant and his protested innocence in the killings.

"The reward offer includes you guys," a senior U.N. military official told Reuters wryly, meaning the media. Neither he nor the poster said how much the reward was.

The poster is to be showered by helicopter over Mogadishu, a city which could be twinned with both

Dodge City and Beirut after two years of clan warfare.

It stopped short of explicitly offering money for anyone who brought in Gen. Aideed dead or alive, as its American frontier antecedents might have. But it told recipients "you can bring him in person," a tacit invitation to produce a corpse.

Gen. Aideed told NBC television on Tuesday, "for what reason I have to surrender?"

No court exists to try Aideed, page 2

"Wanted. Any citizen who apprehends him will be given a reward," the U.N. poster read. Information must be reported to the headquarters of UNOSOM, door number 8."

The U.N. issued an arrest warrant for Gen. Aideed last Thursday after bombing his headquarters.

(Continued on page 5)

Sceptics aside, Jordanians see King's visit to U.S. as major boost to country's standing

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY KING Hussein's current visit to Washington, which has included not only first meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton and senior administration officials but also crucial encounters with leaders of a hitherto critical American Congress and press, has been viewed here as a major boost to Jordan's efforts to reassert itself as a key player in Middle East politics. But sceptics maintain that there may be a price to pay, on the internal front at least, for renewed support from Washington, which is being felt by the extended stay of the King in the American capital (11 days) and the wide range of

meetings that has been planned for him.

After King Hussein's meeting with President Clinton on June 18, a White House statement said the two leaders discussed Jordan's progress towards democratisation and respect for human rights and the U.S. president expressed support for the King's "courageous" efforts in this regard. The statement quoted Mr. Clinton as saying that "this work will encourage long-term stability and prosperity in Jordan." On the other hand, the two leaders discussed the "imperative nature of continuing to enforce" U.N. sanctions against Iraq, as the U.S. president himself put it, and the two countries will continue to work closely in pursuit of that goal.

In the absence of first-hand information on what actually took place during the two-hour meeting, these two statements were open to various interpretations by Jordanian politicians and analysts.

NEWS ANALYSIS

While some took the first statement to mean that the Americans have now fully accepted the King's policy of inclusion at home, basically with the Islamists who strongly oppose Arab-Israeli negotiations, other cast doubt that the administration has moved from its previous position which indirectly maintained that the Islamists were a threat to democracy.

Jordanians are generally agreed, however, on the meaning of words concerning Iraq. The indication here is that the new U.S. administration, under prodding from headline policy-makers who are obsessed by the forced removal of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from power, might pressure Jordan into contributing towards that goal.

In fact, it could be those policy-makers who might have been behind publishing U.S. press reports, earlier on the King's visit, which cited a Congressional report accusing Jordan of having supplied Iraq with material.

(Continued on page 5)

New Bosnia map emerges in Geneva

GENEVA (R) — The shape of a future Bosnia divided between Serbs, Croats and Muslims started to emerge at peace talks in Geneva Wednesday.

Details of the proposals, presented by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, remained sketchy but they clearly bore little resemblance to the Vance-Owen plan abandoned a week ago.

Instead of 10 semi-autonomous provinces as suggested by mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, Bosnian Serbs and Croats were pushing for three ethnic states scattered over five or six territories.

The Serbs, whose well-armed militias now control 70 per cent of Bosnia, were demanding a single

"Serb republic" stretching from the border with Serbia across to Bosnia's western frontier, diplomats said.

The Bosnian Croats, better-armed but less numerous than their Muslim former allies, (See page 10) were looking for a Croat republic in southwestern Bosnia-Herzegovina — and possibly a small patch of territory by the border with Croatia in the north.

The Muslims, Bosnia's largest community, would be confined to a "Bosnian republic" stretching north from the capital Sarajevo and including a pocket of land around the northwestern town of Bihac.

"It's all very rough at the moment. They haven't got round yet to who gets which village," one

diplomat said.

Diplomats said Mr. Tudjman and Mr. Milosevic, accompanied by Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, presented the plan to Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, Mr. Vance's successor, at a private villa outside Geneva.

Before the meeting, Lord Owen said he expected to be given detailed proposals, including maps, by the two presidents and insisted that a straight "partition" of Bosnia effectively freezing out the Muslims would not be acceptable.

Arriving in Geneva, Mr. Karadzic said he and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban had not drawn up a joint map in talks at

(Continued on page 5)

Egypt hangs another militant

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt on Wednesday hanged an Islamic militant convicted of murdering a policeman, in the second such execution this month, legal sources said.

The sources said Hassan Shehata Badran was hanged in a Cairo prison. He was condemned to death by a military tribunal in the northern city of Alexandria on Feb. 23 for killing a policeman while he was being arrested.

Badran, had already been sentenced to 15 years in jail for belonging to a militant group known as the "Returnees from Afghanistan," which was accused of plotting to overthrow the government.

Attacks by a known militant

group on police, Christians and tourists have been replaced by a series of nail-bomb attacks primarily targeted at ordinary Egyptians.

One bomb in February, two in May and two in June have killed 17 Egyptians and injured more than 60.

The attacks have stirred fear and anger at the militants and frustration with the government's inability to catch those responsible.

Officials have blamed bombs on "terrorists hiding behind religion." Diplomats largely accept the government's assertion that the bombs were all planted by the same group but believe no one knows exactly who they are.

Ahmad and Badran were the first to be sentenced to death and were first in line to be executed. There is no appeal from the military courts and defence lawyers have little doubt that 12 other men condemned to death and already in custody will also be hanged.

The remaining seven men condemned to death — one has been sentenced twice in different trials — are on the run. Sympathisers say most of them are in Afghanistan.

Hundreds of Arabs fought alongside Afghan guerrillas against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul during the 1980s, learning skills which have since been put to violent use in anti-government Islamic groups in

Egypt and Algeria.

The guerrillas took power in Kabul in April 1992 but have since fought among themselves and there are many parts of the country where Arab radicals can base themselves beyond the reach of any government.

Badran was still on the run when the "Returnees from Afghanistan" case began last November.

Police tracked him down during the trial but during the operation to arrest him, he shot dead police officer Mohammad Ali Khater and wounded Colonel Mahmoud Al Makhzanji.

A leader of the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyyah, Safwat Abdul Ghani, has warned that executions would escalate the violence and charged it was part of a drive to wipe out the group's leadership.

Newspapers reported Wednesday that police defused a bomb on a highway near Cairo airport, in the fourth such incident in the Egyptian capital this week.

Disposal experts defused the bomb on Tuesday, the reports said. It was made up of three plastic bottles containing TNT, powder and more than 500 bullets for automatic weapons.

A bomb was found Monday near the semi-official Al Gomhuriya newspaper in central Cairo, and two more were defused Sunday in the northern slum district of Shubra.



An Italian peacekeeper Wednesday chases youths who had threatened to hurl stones at his checkpoint in Mogadishu (AFP photo)

No court exists to try Aideed

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — As U.N. peacekeepers in Somalia try to track down and arrest fugitive warlord Mohammed Farrah Aideed, legal experts are puzzling over what law he broke in a lawless land, and how he can be tried.

The dilemma facing the lawyers is one of jurisdiction. There is no international criminal court to try Gen. Aideed, and Somalia has no functioning judiciary or legal system.

On Thursday, the chief U.N. envoy in Somalia, retired U.S. Admiral Jonathan Howe, gave U.N. peacekeepers orders to detain Gen. Aideed for allegedly organising ambushes that killed 24 Pakistani U.N. peacekeepers on June 5.

He said Gen. Aideed was under investigation on charges of conspiracy to conduct premeditated attacks against U.N. forces, crimes against humanity and endangering civilians and U.N. personnel through organised incitement of violence.

"The (detention) order has been given, and it will be implemented," Chief U.N. spokesman Joe Sills said Monday. But he declined comment on how, or where Gen. Aideed could be tried.

The U.N. legal department in New York is sending two advisors to Somalia to develop recom-

mendations on how Gen. Aideed could be tried if apprehended. But even the question of where Gen. Aideed would be detained is wide open.

Pakistani Ambassador Jamshed Marker proposes holding him on a ship, Russian Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov suggests sending him to the British South Atlantic island of St. Helena, where Napoleon Bonaparte died in exile in 1821.

The International Court of Justice at the Hague, Netherlands — known as the World Court — handles cases filed by nations against other nations. It is not a criminal court and does not bear cases involving individuals.

Proposals to set up an international criminal court have been debated for years in General Assembly subcommittees, but the talks have been slowed by worries of infringing on the rights of countries to try a suspect.

Mr. Vorontsov is pushing to have the General Assembly adopt an international treaty making it a war crime to attack a peacekeeper.

If that idea is accepted, suspects could be tried on that charge in their homeland or extradited for trial elsewhere. But it would have no effect on Gen. Aideed's actions taken before the establishment of the treaty.

Kofi Annan, the undersecretary-general in charge

of U.N. peacekeeping, has mentioned an ad hoc tribunal or a Somali tribunal.

In the case of suspected war criminals in former Yugoslavia, the Security Council has set up an ad hoc tribunal, with headquarters in the Hague, to indict suspects and try them if they can be apprehended.

The council may try to set up another ad hoc international tribunal for Gen. Aideed's case, though it has not taken any steps in that direction yet.

That would have the advantage of bringing Gen. Aideed before a tribunal representing a broad spectrum of nations rather than just the major powers.

But that introduces other problems. Some states permit the death penalty, others do not. Some judicial systems permit the use of deadly force to protect property, others forbid it.

A trial in Somalia presents other problems. The country has not had a functioning judicial or legal system for years, so it is unclear what laws Gen. Aideed could be accused of violating.

Finding a Somali judge willing to try him could be difficult. The country is still torn between competing clans, and any judge willing to sentence Gen. Aideed could expect to be marked for death by Gen. Aideed's partisans.

U.N. embargo stops alleged chemical arms shipment for Libya

By William C. Mann
The Associated Press

CAIRO — A U.N. weapons embargo has resulted in the seizure of a shipment before it reached Libya that Western analysts said would have given Gaddafi a big boost towards making a chemical weapons factory.

The confiscation of material from a Singapore dock, prompted by British experts, was the first of a year-old U.N. arms ban against Libya to obstruct its drive to build a chemical weapons industry.

It was not easy. Like most clandestine shipments of weapons-making material, it required cooperation by governments along a roundabout route to its destination because the cargo was listed as harmless chemicals so as to escape detection.

The United Nations banned Libya of weapons to Libya on Jan. 15, 1992, to force it to surrender for trial two men accused of blowing up Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, which killed 270 people dead. Libya still denies the charges.

In this case, Singapore confiscated the questionable shipment, a steel chemical reactor vessel in March just before it was shipped to a Libyan factory in Benghazi that manufactures phosphoric acid.

"They're very proud in London of stopping this shipment," said British diplomat Ian Cliffe said in a briefing paper recently made available to the Associated Press.

The equipment, in Libya's arsenal, would sustain annual production of hundreds of tonnes of mustard gas and deadlier, more sophisticated nerve gases.

The seizure was mentioned in the May edition of the London-based business and current affairs magazine "The Middle East," but it hadn't been reported as such by the U.S. media.

The U.N. Security Council extended the embargo after the

vessels were intercepted. The sanctions, honoured so far almost universally, come up again for renewal on July 15.

Other arms embargo cases have been more mundane than the suspected attempt in Singapore to circumvent the chemical weapons ban. They involved mainly explosives for oil exploration and airport equipment, which came under suspicion because Libya's uses military personnel as airport staff.

Libya has long coveted mass-destruction weapons on the grounds that it must defend itself against the chemical and nuclear arms of the United States and Israel.

U.S. experts say Libya began making poison gas in 1990, refining dual-purpose chemicals, bought earlier from abroad, at Rabta southwest of Tripoli in a plant Libya says makes medicine.

Like that plant, the reactor vessels Singapore intercepted also were said to be something else. They were ordered from a plant in Malaysia for the Benghazi factory to produce "drilling mud" to help lubricate drill bits.

Mr. Cliffe, the British diplomat, told the U.N. Security Council's sanctions committee last March that the vessels were too highly engineered for that. They were better suited to make chemicals used in poison gas, he said in the briefing paper.

A Security Council source, speaking on condition he not be named, said the United States and Britain tried to persuade Malaysia's government not to allow the vessels to leave the factory at Port Klang where they were manufactured.

The Malaysians were not convinced that the shipment would have a military use, the source said from New York. He said Singapore, the transshipment point, suggested a signal from the sanctions committee would be honoured. The committee comprises the 15 countries of the Security Council.

The sanctions committee agreed and told Singapore, which then seized the shipment.

Blast mars prelates' meeting

BALAMAND (AP) — A Muslim man was killed and two were wounded in a bomb explosion near a monastery hosting a Catholic-Orthodox conclave to resolve Christianity's earliest schism, police said Wednesday.

They said the blast Tuesday night apparently occurred as the three men, all of them Lebanese Muslims, were trying to link an explosive charge to a land mine at a road junction five kilometres from the monastery.

Churchmen attending the last day of the conclave Wednesday would have had to drive through that intersection to reach the 1,000-year-old hilltop monastery, where 37 senior cardinals and bishops from around the world were staying.

"This is so far a theory with no corroborative evidence," said a police spokesman, commenting on speculation the convoys could have been the target.

The wounded were taken to a hospital in Tripoli, provincial capital of North Lebanon. The police spokesman said one of them was being interrogated and the other would be once he regains consciousness. He gave no details on their condition, and would not speculate on their motives.

Lebanese and Syrian army troops stepped up security in the region Wednesday. Soldiers toting M-16 assault rifles and shoulder-fired armour-piercing rockets set up separate checkpoints at the scene of the blast. They searched all cars heading for the monastery.

Lebanese Squad 16 riot policemen in their trademark red berets took up guard positions in the pine woods around the monastery, overlooking the Mediterranean.

Bomb attacks were frequent during Lebanon's 15-year civil war, but have become rare since the strife ended in 1990.

Cardinal Edward Cassidy, leader of the Catholic negotiating team, and his Orthodox counterpart, Archbishop Stylianos of Australia, appeared unperturbed when asked about the blast.

"We have heard the noise of the explosion and we were surprised," Archbishop Stylianos told reporters.

Fighting postpones Kabul cabinet meeting

KABUL (AFP) — A meeting of Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's cabinet scheduled for early Wednesday morning was postponed due to factional fighting that blocked the route to be travelled by the cabinet ministers, officials said.

"There was a meeting planned for 9:30 this morning but it was prevented due to clashes at Dehrazang Square," said Engineer Sabawoon, the security chief for Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction.

The meeting of 12 ministers was to be held at Darulaman Palace, about seven kilometres south of Dehrazang Square, which is the frontline between forces loyal to the Defence Ministry and those of Mr. Hekmatyar's Shiite Muslim allies.

For approximately 90 minutes there was an exchange of light weapons fire and heavy artillery between the Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat, and Defence Ministry troops loyal to Ahmed Shah Masoud.

Mr. Masoud stepped down as defence minister five weeks ago in a political, compromise that

enabled the formation of Mr. Hekmatyar's contested cabinet to take place.

Mr. Sabawoon said the prime minister arrived on time at Darulaman for the cabinet meeting, which has now been postponed indefinitely.

WHO warning

The World Health Organisation warned Tuesday that Afghanistan was on the brink of a health catastrophe and urged donor countries to dig into their pockets before it was too late.

If donors do not help now, "we will all hold the burden of this shame on our shoulders one day," visiting WHO representative Ashor Umar Gerbreel said.

Mr. Gerbreel told AFP during a one-day tour of hospitals in this war-battered capital that the WHO had asked the world community for \$8 million to cover minimum needs for 1993, but the response had been miserable.

"Afghanistan is on the brink of a health catastrophe, the situation is getting worse and worse," he said, asking how the organisation

could battle on with only \$5 million pledged over the next two years for even the most basic health needs.

He listed the basics as treating the country's thousands of mine victims, combating the spread of malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, and maintaining a flow of basic medicines and surgical equipment to the country's overworked and understaffed hospitals.

Mr. Gerbreel, who accompanied United Nations representative Sotirios Mousouris to Kabul Tuesday for a one day visit, said a sorely needed training programme for clinic and hospital staff would cost \$62 million.

Without donor help, this programme would die, he said.

He said most WHO expatriates, driven from Afghanistan by the intensity of factional fighting since the downfall of the communist regime in April of 1992, wanted to return, but that the decision was up to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rabin approves new carpets for Al Aqsa

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — While Middle East peace talks dragged on in Washington and a corruption scandal raged in his cabinet, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had time on Tuesday for more down-to-earth concerns — carpets. Mr. Rabin's office announced he had approved a request from the Egyptian government to import new carpets for Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. The carpets were a gift from Moroccan King Hassan.

Pinochet to sign Israel arms deal

TEL AVIV (AP) — Former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, now Chile's chief-of-staff, is planning to visit Israel to sign an arms deal, a left-wing parliament member said. Petitioning Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to bar such a visit, lawmaker Benny Temkin of the Meretz party told Israel Radio that it would be a nightmare for Israel's image. If the Chileans need the weapons, they'll buy them, Mr. Temkin told Israel Radio, but Mr. Pinochet should not be allowed into the country. Selling weapons to such people could have far-reaching consequences for Israel. According to Mr. Temkin, sources close to Chile's democratically elected government have warned Israel that Mr. Pinochet is still seen as a threat to Chilean democracy.

Ciller, Inonu agree on coalition basics

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish Prime Minister-designate Tansu Ciller and acting Premier Erdal Inonu agreed Tuesday the essentials of the new coalition between their centre-right and social democratic parties, the Anatolia news agency said. "We agreed on the essentials of the coalition protocol," the agency quoted Mr. Inonu as saying. There were no other details. Mr. Inonu, who heads the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP), partner of the 19-month coalition, said they would sign the new protocol on Thursday. He did not comment on a cabinet lineup.

Israel to test U.S. nuclear-powered ships

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The environment ministry is to conduct radioactivity tests on ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the northern Israeli port of Haifa, a ministry spokeswoman said Wednesday. Sari Zimmerman said air and water samples would be taken. "We will check the level of radioactivity around these nuclear-powered ships," she explained. The operation is part of a programme to detect emissions in several regions of the country, including around the Dimona atomic plant in southern Israel, Ms. Zimmerman told AFP.

Aleymda gets first big passenger plane

TOULOUSE, France (AFP) — Aleymda Yemen Airlines took delivery here Wednesday of its first big passenger aircraft, an Airbus A310-300, to be used on routes to Europe and Asia, Airbus Industrie announced. It said the airplane could carry 196 passengers in a three-class configuration, and is equipped with General Electric CF6-80C2 jet engines. Airbus Industrie said it has now delivered a total of 629 A300s and A310s, and 75 airlines are now using them.

Vickers secures tank order from Oman

LONDON (R) — British defence contractor Vickers Plc said on Tuesday it has signed a multi-million pound deal with Oman for 18 of its new Challenger-2 battle tanks and other military vehicles. The company did not put a value on the deal but chief executive Sir Colin Chandler said: "This important order... confirms the competitive qualities of Challenger 2 and our belief that it is the best and most advanced main battle tank in the world." Industry sources said the contract was worth about £140 million (\$208 million) and included 18 Challenger tanks with first delivery due in 1995. A further order from Oman was expected, they added.

Too few Israelis speak Arabic, army moans

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Far too Israelis are fluent in Arabic for the country's military needs, a high-ranking intelligence officer has complained. "Today hardly and young people come into the army who have learnt Arabic at home," Colonel Doron Tamir told this week's edition of the army magazine Bamakhane. "The immigrants who came to Israel from Arab countries have grown old and their children speak very little Arabic or not at all. I think the state of Israel is wrong not to make children learn Arabic. Whether there is peace or not, you have to know Arabic in this region because it is the only means of communication between different peoples."

Israelis caught in S. African currency scam

TEL AVIV (AFP) — South Africa has protested to the Israeli embassy in Pretoria after catching two diplomats trying to transfer \$500,000 out of the country illegally, a newspaper reported Wednesday. Reserve General Hagai Reguev, who heads the embassy's military delegation, and Aharon Dagan, a member of the delegation, had both been forced to leave South Africa, the Yediot Aharonot said. The two men intended to transfer the money, belonging to South African Jews and Israelis living in the country, through their private accounts in a Johannesburg bank.

Ukraine deputies angry over Israeli's comments

KIEV (R) — Ukrainian lawmakers Tuesday bitterly accused the head of Israel's parliament of portraying all Ukrainians as Nazi collaborators during a speech in Kiev last week and demanded he issue an apology. Shevah Weiss, in a letter to Ukrainian authorities, said the row over comments in the speech was due to a translation error. Ukraine's foreign minister, Anatoly Zlenko, said he accepted the explanation and considered the incident closed. The row opened generations-old wounds between the Ukrainians and Jews dating from well before the Soviet era. Mr. Weiss's speech said his attitude to Ukrainians was "ambivalent... as it is with other nations who worked with the Nazis, serving the machine of destruction and hurling European civilisation on the path of unprecedented crimes." Mr. Weiss explained in his letter that words had been dropped from the translation of his Hebrew text clarifying that he was referring only to part of Ukrainian society.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
19:30	Pif et Hercule
19:35	Superchamps
19:40	L'ecole des fans
19:45	News in French
19:50	Fusion
19:55	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:05	Comedy
20:10	Quantum Leap
20:15	News in English
20:20	Feature film: "Eleni"
PRAYER TIMES	
19:50	Fajr
20:00	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
20:10	Asr
20:20	Maghreb
20:30	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swarthel Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 61440	
St. Salla Church Tel. 661757	
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will continue hot and dry and winds will northerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be very hot, and winds will be northerly fresh and seas calm.	
Amman	Mia/max. temp.
Aqaba	23 / 37
Deserts	28 / 42
Jordan Valley	20 / 40
	28 / 43

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 39, Aqaba 42. Humidity readings: Amman 13 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
ADMAN:	
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad	846070
Dr. Fakhri Tabcy	853800
Dr. Jam' Alay Dab	748848
Dr. Khalil Mohammad	740740
First pharmacy	661912
Fordons pharmacy	778336
Al Aqsa pharmacy	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	636772
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632
IBRD:	
Dr. Ahmad Qamr	(-)
Al Quds pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Fawaz Hamdallah	(-)

Khalifah pharmacy 985417	
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	60341
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	892228
Blood Bank	77121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	655800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	623101
Abdallah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	660100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company 636381	
RJ Flight Information	06-53230
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	06-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Husein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	642816
Akshah Maternity, J. Amn	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mafes, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	84945
Al-Muhammadiyah	667277/9
The Islamic, Abdali	664171/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajroon	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marfa	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602405/0
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarga Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarga National Hospital	(09)982560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)99090
IBRD:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)273355

12:15	Dubai (RJ)	03:45	Dubai (RJ)
17:55	Larnaca (RJ)		
19:00	Abu Dhabi (RJ)		
19:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)		
19:35	Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)		
19:30	London, Berlin (RJ)		
19:30	Athens (RJ)		
20:00	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)		

Home News

Queen addresses media foundation, Princeton Club in Washington

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor was invited to lunch at the White House by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton Tuesday. During the luncheon, the two first ladies discussed issues of mutual concern including Jordanian-U.S. relations, development matters, women and children, health care, democracy and human rights. Among the other guests at the luncheon were Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal and Tipper Gore, wife of Vice-President Al Gore.

Queen Noor, who is accompanying His Majesty King Hussein on a several day visit to the United States, was the guest of honour at two separate functions Monday.

First she attended a lunch meeting hosted by the Women's International Media Foundation. Founded in Washington 1990, the foundation's aim is to establish a network of journalists to help advance freedom of the press and women's role in the journalism profession.

During the lunch, at which 13 members were present, including the two co-chairwomen of the foundation, the Queen answered various questions about Jordan. She spoke about her role in promoting arts and



Queen Noor

culture in Jordan through such fora as the Jerash festival, and about her work on development.

Later Queen Noor attended a reception held by the Princeton Club on Capitol Hill.

The Queen, a Princeton University graduate in architecture and urban planning, addressed 150 guests, among whom were Princeton alumni and students, members of Congress, congressional alumni staff and members of the Princeton Club.

In her address, Queen Noor focused on the interdepend-



Hillary Rodham Clinton

ence of nations and the necessity for all people to work in unison to achieve common goals and to meet their "global responsibilities."

She encouraged the audience, especially the Princeton graduates, to remember "how important it is to constantly rekindle our commitment to engaging with those in our larger family, to work together to solve problems, to never cease to try to understand one another better, and to understand that by helping one another we can achieve all the dreams that we have."

Yarmouk, Jordan U. conduct graduations

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein Wednesday attended a graduation ceremony at Yarmouk University to honour students excelling in academic, cultural, social, artistic and sports fields.

University President Ali Mahafza delivered an address in which he welcomed Prince Faisal and congratulated the students on their achievements, wishing them further success in their future endeavours.

At the end of the ceremony, Prince Faisal distributed awards to the new graduates.

The ceremony was attended by the governor and the mayor of Irbid, the director of the Irbid Police Department, the president of the Irbid Chamber of Commerce, senior university officials and students' relatives.

In Amman, the University of Jordan Wednesday concluded its graduation celebrations of the 28th class of students, with University President Fawzi Gharaiheb distributing certificates and diplomas to graduates from the faculties of Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Higher Education.

Dr. Gharaiheb called on the graduates to rise to the level of national responsibility and to persevere in serving their homeland.

He said the university has always sought to review its fields of study and update them based on the belief that it is an inseparable part of the society.

Of the graduating students, 175 are from the Faculty of Nursing, 80 from the Faculty of Pharmacy, 53 from the Faculty of Dentistry, and 754 from the Faculty of Higher Education.

JPA to raise funds for new head offices

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) plans a fund-raising campaign to support the construction of a press club and permanent headquarters, according to JPA President Suleiman Al Qudah.

In a statement to the Jordan Times, Mr. Qudah said the JPA also plans to sell a piece of land owned by the association in order to raise more funds needed for the projects.

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing pledged to draw up designs and supervise the work on the construction of the complex on a two-dunum plot in Al Hussein Youth City, which was provided to the JPA by His Majesty King Hussein.

The pledge was made by Minister of Public Works and Housing Khalaf Al Hawari at a meeting

Suleiman Al Qudah

Wednesday with Mr. Qudah and JPA board members.

Mr. Qudah said no estimate can be made of the cost of the project, until the ministry designs have been completed.



Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Wednesday visits the Bosnian families who arrived in Jordan last week (Petra photo).

Guest Bosnian children to receive education in their own language

AMMAN (J.T.) — Soon nearly 150 Bosnian children now being hosted in Jordan will be receiving school education following the Bosnian system, in a programme prepared by the Jordanian Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO).

JHCO Secretary General Abdul Salam Al Abbadi told the Jordan Times that these children, all in the primary level, will attend classes adjacent to the building where they are now staying on Jabal Jofa and will be taught in their own language by Bosnian students at Jordanian universities or Jordanian graduates of Bosnian universities.

Students at the preparatory and secondary levels can, if they wish, join government schools nearby, said Dr. Abbadi, who is also minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

In addition, he said, the students will be offered lessons in Arabic and Islamic culture.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Wednesday

visited the 420 Bosnian families who arrived in Jordan last week.

The Princess was briefed by Dr. Abbadi on the JHCO programmes to help these families through various charitable and voluntary organisations in the Kingdom.

The Princess toured the premises and inspected the various services offered to the families, who voiced their deep appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and the Jordanian people and government for the hospitality accorded them.

The Jordanian people sympathise with and are willing to offer assistance to the Muslim people of Bosnia who have been facing tragedies, said the Princess in addressing the families.

She said "the continued war made us feel that the human rights of the Bosnian people are being violated and lost."

Public and private organisa-

tions in Jordan, she added, are doing their utmost to help the Bosnian guests in Jordan.

The princess later visited the injured Bosnians now undergoing treatment at Al Bashir Government Hospital and inspected services offered to them.

The Princess was accompanied by Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas and several Health Ministry officials.

Dr. Abbadi said the Jordanian private and public sector hospitals are now providing treatment to 21 Bosnians suffering from various war injuries or ailments.

Asked whether the JHCO was planning another airlift of Bosnians to Jordan, Dr. Abbadi said there were no plans for further air lifts for the time being, noting that the 420 families were stranded in an area between Croatia and Bosnia and were threatened with expulsion from either side, thus promoting Jordan to act quickly to save their lives.



The famous treasury of Petra (file photo)

French book on Petra translated into Arabic

AMMAN — A translation of a French book depicting the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, entitled "Petra, The Meaning of the Stone," was published here Wednesday in Arabic.

The book, which will be officially released Thursday, was the fruit of cooperation between the cultural section of the French embassy in Amman and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities over the last three years.

A press release from the French embassy here said the publication of the book in Arabic was designed to help strengthen bridges of friendship and cultural

cooperation between France and the Arab World.

A total of 12 Arabic and French-speaking writers took part in compiling the book and each spent several days in the "rose-red city" in 1991 and 1992 while preparing for their book.

This is an initiative towards closer French-Jordanian cooperation in tourism, it added.

Five famous photographers were retained for the project: they visited Petra in the past few months and their work is now being displayed at the Institute of the Arab World in Paris.

Palestine

Security

AMMAN — The Jordanian army has led a military operation in the southern Jordanian town of Dhaman, requiring immediate evacuation of the town and surrounding areas. The operation was launched in response to a report of a terrorist attack on a bus carrying pilgrims to the Holy Land. The army has since regained control of the town and no further action is expected.

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The demise of the Palestinian Christians

The Forgotten Faithful: The Christians Of The Holy Land

By Said K Abu Rish

Published by Quartet Books Limited 1993

THE FORGOTTEN Faithful must certainly be one of the most refreshing and candid non-fiction contemporary works written by any Arab author about his own people and society in a long time.

Better yet the author, a member of the Arab Muslim majority, makes a case and a point for one of the so-called minority groups in the Middle East — The Arab Christians.

The fate of the Christians in Palestine is the subject of the Forgotten Faithful. It is in effect a plea, a reminder, a call for help and understanding. Palestine is being "cleansed" not only of its Muslims but its Christians — and proportionally much more so of its Christians.

The author's message is: this cleansing must be stopped! By "cleansing" the author refers to the physical exile from Palestine and not the near genocide currently taking place in Bosnia.

BOOK REVIEW

The number of Palestinian Christians residing in the occupied territories of 1967 have gone from 130,000 in 1967 to 42,000 today.

At present there are only 4,000 Christians living in Jerusalem — the city of peace.

From a group that once represented 12 per cent of the people, today it barely represents three per cent.

It is emigration, mainly to the West, that is reducing their numbers and for "Palestinianism", as Mr. Abu Rish calls it, the loss of its Christian peoples would amount to a "huge tragedy".

"Their contributions to their country and the welfare of its people have always been beyond their numbers and they have suffered from sectarianism," Mr. Abu Rish says of Palestinian Christians in his introduction.

Their contribution to the Palestinian society at large then is what threatens to be lost and Mr. Abu Rish, for one, is deeply disturbed by this prospect.

He writes in amazement about anti-Christian feelings among some of his Muslim brethren and finds it "utterly out of place, ignorant and distasteful".

He alludes that plans by Muslim revisionists to create an Islamic state where Muslim and non-Muslim will abide by Islamic Law are similar to the fanatic sectarianism of the Israelis themselves.

But the main and immediate problem for the Christians of Palestine remains Israel's disrespect and hatred for

THE FORGOTTEN FAITHFUL

The Christians of the Holy Land

SAID K. ABURISH

Christianity. Among the three main reasons Mr. Abu Rish gives for the demise of the Palestinian Christian population in the occupied territories are:

1. Israeli attempts to drive them out through economic pressures,
2. the lack of active support from western churches to whose congregations they belong to and
3. most recently to the rise of Islamic sectarianism and self-righteousness.

Not a single Palestinian Christian interviewed in The Forgotten Faithful cites attitudes by revisionist Islamists as a primary or even secondary reason for their continuing emigration to North and South America, as well as

Australia. Israel's policies of economic discrimination are constantly cited as the number one and main reason for the exodus. The unwillingness of the churches, who are loyal to Greece, the Vatican and Canterbury, to boost the Palestinian economy is another major reason.

The Western-based churches' inability or unwillingness to speak out loudly against Israel's sectarian policies are cited as the second main concern of the Christians in Palestine.

Seen as privileged and favoured by their Western co-religionists the Christians have received little real support from the Muslim majority.

Mr. Abu Rish writes in utter amazement how much more religious the average Muslim in Palestine has become. A citizen of the West for more than 30 years, he is by all accounts a "secular" Muslim.

The "new Muslims" he writes are parting ways with both Christians and their secular co-religionists.

"The natural divide between Islam and Christianity has widened. Islam is becoming more militant at a time when the Christians of the Holy Land are becoming more moderate. Islam's militancy means an anti-West stand and the Christian moderation means closer identification with the newly moderate PLO and closer ties to the West," writes Mr. Abu Rish.

The writer devotes a whole chapter to the religious support for Zionism among the 40 million fundamentalist Christians in the United States. They, he says, unknown to most Muslims have a total disregard to the native Christian rights to Jerusalem and the other Christian holy cities in Israel and the occupied territories.

Israel and Western Christians aside, Mr. Abu Rish is confused and saddened that the once pan-Arab secular spirit of the 1950's and 1960's has not really survived or evolved into something still more powerful and uniting. A new brand of Islam, for now, has taken the centre stage and threatens to become as bigoted as all forms of absolutism and fundamentalism.

"There is a bigness about them and what they do," writes Mr. Abu Rish, "a grand, almost elegant assumption of responsibility in all fields. When it comes to the Palestinian problem they occupy a house above the ground, they are unique in their contribution."

In this decade George Antonious, Albert Hourani and Edward Said were and are among the many Palestinian and Arab Christians who wrote and spoke out in defence of Islam and what we call "our Arab nation". With The Forgotten Faithful Mr. Abu Rish has probably established himself as our region's first Muslim writer to speak and write in defence of the Arab Christians. Finally!

Mariam M. Shahr

A century of misunderstandings

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — It is not, easy to explain to a non-Arab why the term "Orientalist" — typically a Western intellectual and scholar whose life passion is the study of Oriental cultures — has acquired such pejorative connotations. Often this scholar has learned difficult languages to be able to penetrate further the secrets of the Orient, and he or she lives there, making a life commitment to in-depth studies.

Among the best known Orientalists of days gone by were painters who captured the most different and varied aspects of the Oriental world since the 18th century. The very scenes they depicted highlighted the difference between the two worlds and set them apart in their extraordinary beauty.

Yet, the results of Western studies on aspects of Oriental life were and still are perceived by Arabs with an enormous amount of reservations, bitterness and often anger. Agreed, such studies often were tainted by the prevailing historical, social and political contexts of the time when they were done, but now a new generation of researchers has arisen: They dodge the pejorative label to call themselves "Arabists," and they mean to learn from the mistakes of their forerunners.

Alain Roussillon, 40, is at the forefront of this new movement. He is a researcher at the Cairo "Centre d'Etudes et de Documentation Economiques, Juridiques et Sociales" (CEDES — Study Centre on Economic, Legal and Social Documentation). Of Egyptian and French parentage, he is completely bilingual and has the privileged position not only of studying in one of the historic centres of Arabism, but also of closely following the development of the crisis of identity rocking the Islamic World.

Mr. Roussillon traces the origin of the dispute between the Islamic World and the "Orientalists" back to the days when the ruling viceroys

or khedives of Egypt began to send missions to France and other European countries composed of the young Arab intellectual elite. "Cultural relations between the Orient and the West were chiefly characterised by their reciprocity and they developed throughout the period from the reign in Egypt of Muhammad Ali (1805-1848) to that of Ismail (1863-1879)," Mr. Roussillon commented in a recent interview. "Intellectuals from the Orient studying the West travelled to Europe and met with leading Orientalists from the same generation. The visitors to Europe drew comparisons with their world and discovered a wealth of documentation and knowledge there concerning Oriental and Islamic societies. But, they did not have a clear idea of what was being portrayed in the West about their history, religion and society."

The alarm bells started to ring when contacts were made with certain Orientalists who presented the Muslim World in a negative way. Mr. Roussillon cited the case of Father Lammens who left a body of work full of bias against everything to do with Islam. That is when relations with the Orientalist movement began to sour. Those who had started what came to be known as the Arab Renaissance with its interchange between the Orient and the West, realised that there was a high price to pay for trying to modernise the Arab World.

"At a certain point in time, the intellectuals of the Orient (mostly from Egypt, Syria and Lebanon) realised that the idea of importing Western style to rebuild Arab-Muslim (or Arab-Christian) societies could back-fire," Mr. Roussillon explained. "Take the case of Mansour Fahmi, the first Egyptian holder of a doctorate in philosophy and sociology obtained from the Sorbonne in the 1920s. He did his thesis with Western sociologists on the status of women in Islam. He drew inspiration from Emile Durkheim and quoted Orientalists, including Father

Lammens. His thesis was judged blasphemous by Muslims and caused a scandal in Egyptian society. The criticism levelled at Fahmi was so violent that he hastened to make an apology. He continued his career in safer waters and became director of the conservative national Egyptian library."

Setting accounts

This was not an isolated example and it gave rise to the feeling in the Orient that experiences of immersion in Western culture endangered the religious faith of millions as well as their social status.

"At that time a literary movement formed in the Arab World mainly to reply to the Orientalists," Mr. Roussillon said. Arab intellectuals were out to settle their account for the intrusions of the Orientalists, but the debate has not been all that it could have been.

"Muslim intellectuals tend to box themselves within the intellectual framework of their own society. They attack the Orientalist without trying to get on his wavelength, asking the kind of penetrating questions the Westerner did not ask. It is rather a dialogue of the deaf, which is unfortunate since the two cultures are then forced to interact on a lower plane," Mr. Roussillon said.

It is important to remember in this debate the considerable role of the first Orientalists who recovered the "Toras" (texts on the Arab-Muslim cultural heritage) and exposed the universal aspects of classical Arab culture. "It is not to say that the Orientalists discovered the big names in Arab culture, but they were among the first to edit their works scientifically," Mr. Roussillon added.

In the Orient, religious opinion dictates which texts comply with orthodox doctrine and are therefore acceptable for study. This attitude sometimes has unfortunate repercussions on those circles which should be, by definition, open fields of research. "An Egyptian university professor, Nasr Abou

Zeid, in my opinion one of the most enlightened on the intellectual scene in Egypt, recently appealed against the barring of his request for university promotion because of an accusation of atheism and opposition to religion. This arose from his presentation of two works, one Nagd El Khatib El Dini (Critique On Religious Sermons) and the other on Imam El Chafei in which he criticised dogma in the Islamic tradition which rejects intellectual debate. I find this a dangerous attitude of the University Committee in bringing this accusation against the researcher," explained Mr. Roussillon.

Prof. Nasr Abou Zeid's background ranks him among those who could communicate on social science issues with Western researchers and so relaunch the scientific dialogue which has been interrupted between the West and the Orient. But Arabs opposed to the Orientalists fail to see that things have changed since the time of Father Lammens. And even he and his colleagues can't be condemned en masse, Mr. Roussillon noted.

"The first generation of Orientalists lasted more than a century and the fact that they worked within a colonial context had an influence on their work which scientific objectivity could disprove," said Mr. Roussillon. "This is highlighted by Edward Said, a Palestinian-American who has dedicated a very interesting study to the criticism of Orientalism. Said is basically right when he says that the Orientalists gave a colonial flavour to their representation of the Oriental world. But, he appears to ignore or gloss over the fact that the main Orientalists did good work. As (Maxime) Rodinson said, it's not Champollion's ideology that counts, but the fact that he deciphered the hieroglyphics."

Mr. Roussillon is not very optimistic about the possibility of breaking the deadlock of the dialogue of the deaf syndrome, and of rebuilding confidence to open up debates. In his opinion the Arabists should make their work on the history of Egypt



Alain Roussillon

and on current religious issues available to Arab intellectuals in the Arabic language. The reason for this is not to compensate for any deficiency, but to demonstrate that even if these works evoke debate and controversy, they are not to be construed as plots against Islam and Muslim identity. The ability to criticise and dissect theories, even religious ones is a characteristic of research methodology in Western social sciences. Intellectual and scientific theories should be free from vulnerabilities and restrictions. Unfortunately today the gulf between the Orient and the West is widening each day and is taking on a religious complexion.

"After (the assassination of former President Anwar) Sadat, the general Egyptian opinion was that religious extremism could be contained by a widespread Islamisation of daily life. But the prevailing mood at the moment is very worrying," Mr. Roussillon said.

First, there is a dilemma to be clarified for non-Muslims,

he said. This revolves around what is the basis of the spirit of Islam, that is to say the core body of doctrines including spiritual, political or social choices on the one hand and the living Islam experienced each day.

It is important to remember that religious authorities in different Islamic countries are deeply concerned and mistrustful about the strong impact and often uncontrollable interaction of Western culture with Islamic-Arab culture regarding all aspects of daily life. Mr. Roussillon noted. "A Hungarian author, Todorov, put his finger on the problem by saying that two cultures often interact at a level which is very trivial... That is why we have McDonalds, Coca Cola and Rambo on one side, and belly-dancing on the other. For the general population who do not go any deeper, it represents a perfect basis for misunderstanding, upon which it is easy to graft any kind of conflict. Perhaps there is no way to communicate any further" — World News Link.

Diary

THE DEMOCRACY OF PEACE: The Islamic Action Front (IAF) apparently did not reach its current strength by the force of its members' allegiance to God alone. According to well-placed sources, the Shura Council of the IAF held a meeting last Friday which was apparently dedicated to routine issues. But suffering from an acute competition between its hawkish and dovish members, by IAF standards that is, it had to sort out a few internal problems. According to the sources, however, Muslim Brotherhood deputy Muhammad Abu Fadi took the opportunity of the meeting to deliver an election-type of speech lambasting the IAF's inaction against the Middle East peace talks. At the end of his long and fiery speech, he asked: "Where are the blood-filled demonstrations against the peace talks?" And the dovish team was not going to leave its arch enemy triumphant with an open-ended question. Taffeh deputy Abdullah Akaleh, who is considered a dove with a wild temper, immediately fished back: "The IAF is a national, Islamic, Jordanian party," the sources quoted him as saying. "And if this arrangement suits you then stay. If not, leave." The sources add that a follower of Akaleh's felt encouraged by the way things were turning out so he added: "And who said the IAF was against the Middle East peace talks anyway."

THE LEFT HAS ITS PROBLEMS TOO: Remember the ideals behind leftist thinking. Those same ideas about tribalism and family connections in favour of the party's good. Well so much for slogans, for at least one well-known leftist party is suffering from its inability to put its objectives above its leader's personal family ties. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) allowed its Jordanian wing to break away from it and form its own local party which has come to be known as Hashd. Its only success story in the national elections of 1989 was Bassam Haddadin for the Christian seat of Zarqa. He obviously wants to carry his success into the next Parliament. But Adib Hawatme, also Christian, wants to run for that same seat. And Mr. Hawatme is very closely related to Nayef Hawatme who heads the DFLP. In fact, he is his brother. And according to well-placed sources, Mr. Hawatme is not really lacking in support from his influential brother, who is also looking for ways to reestablish his Jordanian ties. The party appears to have overcome this problem, in theory at least, since it declared Mr. Haddadin as its candidate for the Zarqa Christian seat. But alongside its official announcement stood a lone ad declaring that Mr. Hawatme will run for that same seat. Mr. Hawatme and Mr. Haddadin will, of course, be contesting Zarqa's Christian seat. Only one will be able to win and the party will have to say who will get its support. The brother of the DFLP leader or Mr. Haddadin.

MOVING FROM POLITICAL ARENAS TO SPORT FIELDS: Al Ra'i soccer team Tuesday drew a crowd with the Royal Medical Services team in the final match of a championship to celebrate the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of constitutional power. The trophy of the championship went to the Royal Medical Services team which had accumulated one point more than Al Ra'i during previous matches with the Housing Bank and the Jordan Television teams. Director of the Royal Medical Services Dr. Youssef Al Qasbi, who attended the match with Al Ra'i Editor Mahmoud Al Khatib, was of course happy with his team's win. But it seems he would have been equally happy had his team lost, providing that the game ended before the full 90 minutes were over. About half way through the game, the heat and the not-very-entertaining performance of the two amateur teams seemed to have gone to the audience of the match, including Mr. Kayed and Dr. Qasbi. At that point, what they hoped for was a fast end to the match. "It is not important that we win as long as the match ends now" Dr. Qasbi told Mr. Kayed who, having missed his sister to attend the game, could not but agree with him.

NEWS FROM MORE FARAWAY SPORT FIELDS: Jordan's national soccer team, due to arrive in Amman from China Thursday, has caused many disappointments to its fans with their modest results in the Asian World Cup competition. The team spent over five months preparing for the qualifying rounds and won five out of 10 friendly matches prior to the international competition. In the actual competition they played eight matches and only scored two victories, both over Pakistan. They finished fourth in the five-team group which also included Iraq, China and Yemen. Newspapers were not about to let the team get away with their result and the many other mishaps, or rather misfortunes, that befell them. Al Ma'an sports weekly said the Jordanian team was probably the only sports team, in the world to lose its passports and airplane tickets. Probably they are. A team official had left the important documents in his hotel room and someone did not have any trouble snatching them. The thief was never caught and Jordanian players gave our embassy in Peking some extra work, issuing new travel documents for them. After the team's 5-0 win over Pakistan, the newspaper joked, one fan asked if the Kingdom's team would be playing in the World Cup finals which will be held in the U.S. in 1994. Another answered him: "No you fool, they have lost their passports so they cannot travel to the U.S." Think this is funny, check out what comes next. After their 0-4 defeat to Iraq, players reported toew were being harassed by Chinese officials and press. Headlines in the Chinese newspaper read: "Jordan serves Iraq a four-goal meal", and "Jordan surrenders its match to fellow Arab team because Chinese fans supported Yemen against Jordan in the opening match." That is not all. The team's misfortunes started ahead of the second leg of the tournament held in Chengdu, China. Their flight to Bangkok was delayed for over 3 hours at Queen Alia International Airport. The plane then landed in New Delhi because of mechanical problems. Their scheduled arrival to Hong Kong was therefore delayed and they arrived there only to find that there were no arrangements for transit visas or hotel reservations. The worn out players had to stay at the airport until they finally took a plane to Bangkok where they rested from a 22-hour flight.

TARGET THE PRESS AGAIN: Dr. Ummaya Tougan is the respected head of the Amman Financial Market. Until recently, he was also a friend of the press but it seems that a little bit of the truth can hurt the best of friendships. According to broker sources, Dr. Tougan has circulated a confidential memorandum to the brokers asking them to cooperate with him in not talking to the press. That they found it difficult to cooperate with him is obvious from the fact that there had been several stories lately quoting brokers on financial market business. The problems between the press and Dr. Tougan were apparently triggered by several press reports saying that prices of stocks in the market are overvalued. He, after getting used to an overstated coverage of his assessments, was apparently annoyed by the assessment and thought it wise to close the door on the sources for his information. Cynics among the brokers, however, believe that Dr. Tougan was worried that such reports would hurt his much awaited appointment to the Central Bank. Whether that is true or not remains to be seen, but in the meantime, journalists think that Dr. Tougan should read the ABC's of democracy and see whether there is any clause that guarantees positive reporting at all times.

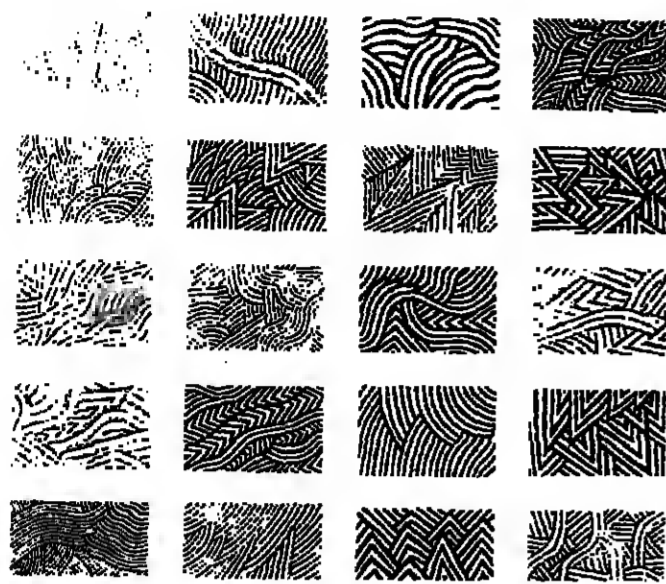
Nermeen Murad

make the marriage vows and they should be educated in the church's teachings.

But the church had allowed a more lenient interpretation of the rules in the case of the Japanese, until it all started to smack of big business and get out of hand.

The ceremonies are a worldwide phenomenon. An estimated 60,000 Japanese are having their wedding blessed in much the same way each

New gallery exhibits works by 31 Arab artists



Graphite On Paper by Samer Tabbaa

By Ica Wahbeh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — If you were growing worried about having exhausted all venues for art exhibiting, rest assured. A new gallery has opened in Amman, with the ambitious project of displaying works by 31 artists from eight Arab countries.

The Ab'ad Hall, on Mecca Street, is part of an art programme of Hisham Adib Hijawi's Scientific Foundation, a non-profit organisation established originally in Liechtenstein with philanthropic objectives.

Mahmoud Al Ubeidi, director of the gallery and himself a painter, said the aim of the Ab'ad program-

me was to support the art movement in Jordan, to encourage interaction between Arab artists, who could thus find out about the latest techniques, and to enable the Jordanian public to know the emerging artists.

The gallery is spacious although the low ceiling must trigger claustrophobia in some tall visitors. Its whiteness is emphasised by the immaculate white tiles interspersed with, every here and there, black square blocks.

The endeavour it made — to have so many high calibre artists exhibit together — is courageous if a bit throwing off balance. There is no common theme (except for the

fact that most works are abstract), there is no common technique (actually it is as different as it can get) and there is no certain colour code.

Yet the whole is harmonious, the colours do not jar the eye and the representations could so easily betray the country of artist and his/her state of mind.

One can see abstractly sketched portraits or female figures next to Arabic calligraphy and geometric forms; or stylised nature next to still life; organic and inorganic mix to create compositions of metal pieces held together by wires or screws next to dainty needlework encased in glassed wooden

boxes and stripes of paint; wood, collage, paper, canvas, oil, acrylic, water-colour, cloth, ceramics, stone meet and part, dazzle the eye and testify to the ingenuity of the human being when it comes to expressing himself and the world around him.

Patriotic or sensual, dark or bright, the messages emanate from the works of the artists, most of whom had already presented their works to the Jordanian public.

To talk about some would be unfair. To talk about all is almost impossible. The best thing to do is to visit the gallery and allow the works to speak for themselves.

The exhibition will last until July 19, 1993.



Oil On Canvas by Ali Al Mijmar

British-born Indian raises flap with rap on caste

By Moses Manoharan
Reuters

BOMBAY — British rap singer Apache Indian is taking India by storm, stirring up controversy in both countries with songs that challenge white racial prejudice, caste, and arranged marriages.

"Sometimes the truth hurts," says Apache Indian, the name by which the 26-year-old reggae artist with the west Indian crew-cut and gold chains chooses to be known.

Apache, christened Steven Kapur by Indian parents who migrated to Britain about 30 years ago from Punjab, launched a tour of India lately, besieged by young fans and winning big coverage in local newspapers.

The slim, bearded popstar is already deeply embroiled in the same controversies he has stirred up back in Britain, where he has become a hit among young Asians and the most visible of a new generation of Asian singers.

Local authorities winced when they heard him rap on Khalistan, the name Sikh separatists use to describe an independent Punjab. It was deepened by cassettes produced in India before his visit.

"I mentioned once that the

Sikhs are fighting for Khalistan... which is the truth. I always talk about things that are happening around me and that people are talking about," Apache said in an interview with Reuters.

He believes the fuss over his use of the name Khalistan arose because the separatist problem is seen to be on the wane in Punjab. But it was a major topic of conversation among Indians in England three years ago when he wrote his song about it, Apache pointed out.

"People here assume it had been just written," he said. In December, he commented on the violent fallout in Britain from communal bloodshed which shook India after militant Hindus demolished a mosque.

He rapped: "Some people are angry, yes me understand. Because war and crime and recession, but you have to think of the situation. Don't use the Indian crisis as a reason."

Apache, who grew up in Birmingham and worked as a welder for five years before his first recording in 1990, said he would write about controversial issues only after a lot of fans had written to him.

"People write to me of say to me 'you are like our voice'."

In India, his new recording is set to tackle the caste system by which the country's main religion Hinduism divides people into four categories and those considered out-caste.

His rap goes: "Who are you to say you are better, because of your race, your creed or your colour?"

"Who are you that you still pray to God, but you still believe in the caste that you have?"

Apache says he is criticised by conservative members of the Indian community in Britain for using rap and its influence on the young to trivialise and publicise problems that should be kept within the community.

They reserve their most trenchant criticism for his most popular number, "Arranged Marriage", which rose to 16 in the British pop charts.

"Some people want to keep the problems to themselves, Indians in Britain are very contained within themselves," he says. "But they need to be addressed."

Some of his fans in India believe the music is better than the lyrics.

"They are too fast for me to understand," says Smitha Sharma, a college student who was waiting patiently



Reggae star Apache Indian

with her mother for a photograph to be taken with Apache.

On arranged marriages — still very common in India — she says: "So what is wrong with them? I don't have a boyfriend and my mother

knows best for me."

Her views on the caste system are equally traditional. "Look, this may sound conceited, but I am from the upper caste and why should I marry someone from the lower castes?"

Omani designer injects new ideas about abayas

MUSCAT (AP) — An Omani housewife staged the first fashion show recently in the sultanate, sparking the idea that colourful abayas should replace the traditional solemn black cloaks here.

Omani women, like others around the Muslim region of the Gulf, don a head to toe black abaya over their dress. Kifah Ibn Sadeq Abdwani, the 29-year-old housewife, displayed some 65 abayas, modeled in a multitude of colours, cuts and fabrics.

Some were exquisitely embroidered with motifs of sea shells and animals, others bedecked with traditional silver jewellery.

"The time is now ripe for our abaya to regain its bright colours," she said in an interview Sunday with the Associated Press. "It is high time for it to bid farewell to the black colour since Omani costumes are characterised by flamboyant hue."

Mrs. Abdwani, a former computer programmer in Oman's Central Bank, dabbled with designs as a hobby, until she succeeded in turning that hobby into an international Tour De Force during a three-night show held under the glittering chandeliers of the luxurious Ali Bustan Palace Hotel.

A diplomat's daughter, she

came to Oman at the age of 14 after a childhood in Kuwait, Austria, Egypt and Tunisia.

Kifah's fabrics range from flowing voiles and chiffons for the morning to heavier wools for the cooler evenings. Embroidery depicted the seashells and waves of Oman's 1700-kilometre coastline, the traditional water pots of this arid country, and the oryx of the escarpment of the Jiddat Al Harasi.

Patterned abayas drew inspiration from the green, pink and brown hues of mountain marble.

Traditional silver jewellery was sometimes stitched into the cloaks — a necklace became a belt, and earrings a clip — and, with other gowns, sparkling gold adorned ankles, arms and heads. Hair remained covered in accordance with Muslim modesty.

Members of the royal family and government ministers joined in the applause for the show, which was the product of five months' work by up to 20 tailors and displayed by Omani models, including an architect, bank clerk and a student who studied her math book during makeup. The 17 amateur models also wore 24 regional costumes

and wedding dresses on the catwalk.

Secretary to the Omani government's cabinet, Hamoud Ibn Faisal Ibn Saeed, welcomed the different colours and designs of the abaya.

"I have seen it before but it's something very unusual and I personally think it's a good idea," said Mr. Ibn Saeed.

But he did not think it would spread quickly. "I don't think they (women) will accept it immediately. I think it will be a long time before they go with it."

Oman's Women's National Tennis Champion Huda Al Nabhani said she would continue to wear black abayas, especially outside.

"All the Gulf women wear abayas of the black colour which is very nice but for my dresses, I like all colours," said Ms. Nabhani.

Traditional artist David Willis, an Australian who has been associated with Oman since 1979, applauded striking "colour combinations" of the Omani designer.

"I was glad to see she used traditional silver jewellery because Omani women have since gone over to gold," added Mr. Willis, who was impressed by the performance of the models.

Of gardens, theorems and Tom Stoppard's masterful Arcadia

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

LONDON — The talk is of landscapes, the laws of chaos and even the odd tortoise, the themes are love, sex, death — in other words, the grand dramatic tour.

Tom Stoppard's Arcadia is the most dazzling and dizzying play London has seen in many a year, as staged by Trevor Nunn in a production to match.

While recent premieres by British dramatic heavyweights Peter Shaffer (The Gift of The Gorgon) and David Hare (Murmuring Judges) have fallen flat, the new play at the Royal National Theatre's Lyttelton Auditorium shows the 55-year-old Stoppard in peerless

form. It's not just the intellectual scope that astounds: A broad topical canvas is nothing new from a dramatist who invokes moral philosophy and epistemology one minute, English cricket and Wayne's World the next.

What separates Arcadia from Rosencrantz And Guildenstern Are Dead (1967), Jumpers (1972) and The Real Thing (1982) — all past Stoppard triumphs — is the extraordinary humanity underlying its sometimes high-falutin' concerns.

To be sure, the play may have a heroine, the teenage Thomasina Coverly (Emma Fielding), who in 1809 is articulating scientific phenomena which wouldn't be given a

proper name for another century.

But the precocious student is as interested in the workings of Eros as in chaos.

"What is carnal embrace?" she asks her tutor Septimus (Rufus Sewell) in the play's opening line. By the end of the evening, she knows — although she cannot know the awful fate soon to befall her on the eve of her 17th birthday that gives the play's climactic waltz its lingering bittersweet edge.

The Czech-born Stoppard loves intricate plots. The Real Thing, his Tony-award winning play, began with what is revealed to be part of a play-within-a-play.

Artist Descending A Staircase, a 1972 radio play subsequently adapted for the

stage, has a V-like structure so that its first and last scenes are set in the present and the chronology moves backwards to and out from the sixth scene.

The first six of the seven scenes in Arcadia alternate between 1809 and the present, acquainting us with two sets of occupants of an elegant Derbyshire country house known as Sidley Park.

The 1809 milieu is dominated by Thomasina and Septimus, who has been practicing his own carnal embraces with Lady Croom (Harriet Walter). Thomasina's mother, offstage in the Gazebo.

The present is given over to Thomasina's descendants — Valentine Coverly (Samuel West) and his sister, Chloe (Harriet Harrison) —

and two visiting researchers: A prim biographer and garden historian, Hannah Jarvis (Felicity Kendal), and a preening academic and avid gigolo, Bernard Nightingale (Bill Nighy).

Hannah has come to Sidley Park to research its mysterious "hermit," whose identity the audience can easily guess by the end of the play.

Bernard is investigating a shooting on the estate involving the romantic poet Lord Byron. If he can prove the incident took place, he will enhance his reputation as a scandal-mongering professor ripe for the talk show circuit.

Stoppard has a field day mocking historians' pretenses to accuracy by dramatising the relevant events in 1809 as well as Bernard's mistaken

interpretation of them almost two centuries later. Lord Byron never appears in the play, but the longhaired, dark-eyed Sewell makes Septimus an apt Byronic surrogate.

He also ensures that the postgraduate student Valentine is a proper heir of Thomasina. Valentine has the facility — and the technology — to theorise in a way unavailable to Thomasina, whom he accuses of "just playing with the numbers."

Suffice it to say that Arcadia is dense enough to have sold a record 2,100 copies since its April 13 bow. The play runs in repertory for a year at the National, where it has been selling out. A Broadway run is possible if

Stoppard's American producer, Emanuel Azenberg, can be persuaded to risk it in the tricky commercial climate of New York.

Stoppard's last scene fuses the two worlds, making overt links between the characters. Just as Thomasina is discovering her first adult flashes of love and sexual yearning, so the modern-day Hannah has suppressed those same desires.

For one brief moment, Stoppard gives both heroines their chance to dance: "I cannot be 17 and not waltz," Thomasina says in a remark heavy with innuendo.

The final image of release may remind some of Brian Friel's 1991 play Dancing At Lughnasa, whose five spinster women find similarly brief

ecstasy in a sudden and unexpected dance.

But the closing waltz is essential to what makes Arcadia great. Yes, the play has scientific precepts to burn, embracing such diverse phenomena as Fermat's last mathematical theorem, thermodynamics and the invention of Thomas Newcomen's steam pump.

And yet, the play's true topic — what Valentine significantly refers to as "the attraction that Newton left out" — lies in that realm beyond deduction: The intricate workings of love and death which remain forever allied not to science but to those artists, such as Stoppard, who can make any theatre lover dance.

Yugoslav youngsters enjoy Disney favourites despite sanctions

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

BELGRADE — Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck have been sucked deep into the conflict in Yugoslavia.

They and the other members of the Disney cartoon family have been officially banned from the rump Yugoslav state under international sanctions imposed a year ago because of the government's involvement in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

But a front-page obituary in Belgrade's main newspaper last January has proved premature.

"Our friends Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse have died," the newspaper announced, under a cartoon that showed Mickey in chains

and Donald in tears.

Six months later, Disney characters are still cavorting on a Belgrade television station whose chief says he would rather go to jail than deprive young viewers of a few hours of sanity in a mad world.

Since January, Mickey and Donald have emerged as proof that no embargo can be complete — and provided ammunition for those who say sanctions tend to hit the innocent more than the guilty.

As Belgrade University Professor Ratko Bozovic, a sociologist, put it: "If we grown-ups are guilty because we voted into power someone the rest of the world refuses to accept, who can prove the guilt of our children?"

The embargo was chiefly aimed at Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, blamed by the west for whipping up ethnic hatred that led to civil war in Bosnia.

Mickey and Donald became issues in the Yugoslav conflict on January 8 when the Walt Disney Company sent a letter to Zika Minkovic, head of the Politika Publishing House, Belgrade's biggest, instructing it to cease publishing Disney cartoons.

"The... United States government provides for very serious penalties for United States companies which do not abide by such an embargo," the letter said. "The Walt Disney Company is affected by all of such embargoes."

Part of the Politika Publishing House complied and a weekly Mickey Mouse magazine entitled Mickey Zabavnik vanished from news stands in Serbia and Montenegro, the two republics that make up what remains of the six-republic Yugoslav federation.

"We stopped publishing Disney characters on February 19," said the magazine's executive editor Mirjana Marinkovic, in an office whose walls are covered with Disney posters. "We stopped because we had to under the terms of our contract."

Ms. Marinkovic said the decision triggered a flood of telephone calls from anguished parents and a steady stream of adults and children calling on Politika to

inquire whether there are any old copies. There aren't.

At one point, Ms. Marinkovic tried to enlist the help of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) to exempt Donald Duck from the sanctions.

She suggested that revenues from the magazine should be donated to refugee and children's programmes. "We had no response."

It was not the first time politics had affected Mickey Zabavnik, whose first edition appeared in 1939. Before the break-up of Yugoslavia, the magazine had Serbian and Croatian editions in Cyrillic and Roman scripts respectively.

After Croatia broke away from the Yugoslav Federation and war broke out in

1991, the Croatian edition was discontinued.

Ms. Marinkovic stuck to the letter of the contract with the Walt Disney Company but the daily newspaper Politika continues to run a daily Mickey Mouse cartoon strip.

"We are running old stuff, strips that have already been paid for," said deputy editor-in-chief Milan Misic.

"Some of the cartoons we are running now were first published in 1940. I don't think they are covered by the agreement (between Politika and Walt Disney)."

For Aleksander Tijanac, the editor-in-chief of Politika's television station, the legal aspects of the case were secondary in his decision to run Disney cartoons for 10 hours every Saturday.

Mr. Tijanac said the deci-

"No one, not even the Walt Disney Company, has the right to deprive children of this entertainment," he said. "And particularly not in an environment where most (of what) they see on TV are the horrors of Sarajevo and war, war, war."

Running Disney cartoons is also a matter of economic survival for Politika TV, which covers the Belgrade area and faces intense competition from newly-established local stations.

Mr. Tijanac says that in the free-for-all of TV competition there is little respect for licensing agreements, copyright, or international prohibitions of pirating programmes by pulling them down from satellites.

Mr. Tijanac said the deci-

sion to go ahead with Disney cartoons was taken after a staff meeting debated the issue.

"You can't be innocent in a whorehouse, I said. I take the responsibility. Let's go ahead."

Mr. Tijanac says family pressure also weighed in his decision: His daughter Zara, 10, and son Stefan, 6, threatened rebellion if their favourite cartoon characters disappeared from his television station.

"I will go to jail or face trial as a war criminal rather than," take Mickey, Donald and all the other characters off the air," he said. "If that happened, our children would be the only ones in the world without Disney. That's just not right."

New technique brings scar-free surgery closer

By Cynthia Johnson
Reuter

LONDON — A surgical technique developed at Cambridge University has brought operations with minimal incisions a step closer.

The researchers say the technique, which allows flat, televised images to be displayed in three dimensions rather than just two, could also have other applications, such as in computer-aided design.

"This 'autostereo' vision is just as nature intends, without special glasses or bulky headsets," says Adrian Travis of the Department of Engineering at Cambridge.

The new system, the Cambridge Autostereo Display, projects several images of an object from slightly different angles in rapid succession on to a high-speed liquid crystal display (LCD).

As each is displayed, a different light source is switched on behind it, so that only a limited area is visible.

With images from two angles an observer receives a different picture in each eye and sees in three dimensions — as in everyday life.

The viewer can also move from side to side and "look around" the stereo image on the screen, for example first viewing the front of a head and then the side.

John Moore, who has been working on the hardware for the system, said its first use would be in so-called "minimally invasive" or "keyhole" surgery.

Such surgery uses a flexible rod called an Endoscope, which can be slipped into the body through a small hole. It carries light down an optical fibre, illuminating the body-part to be worked on.

A tiny telescope pointed through a second hole trans-

mits pictures of the action to a TV camera and from there to a monitor in the operating theatre. The surgeon operates through a third hole, using a variety of long, thin tools.

The technique is used widely in gallstone surgery, for example. But its use is limited in more complicated operations because with current screen displays surgeons can view things only in two dimensions.

"Depth perception is obviously essential for safe and speedy operations," Mr. Moore said. "Would you want to be operated on by a one-eyed surgeon?"

Cambridge already has competition in solving the depth-perception dilemma. Commercial rivals include Canada's International Telepresence Corp., U.S. Surgical Corp. of the United States and Germany's Karl Storz-Endoskop-Beteiligungs-GmbH and Richard Wolf GmbH. A variety of approaches are being tried.

Mr. Moore says one advantage of the Cambridge system is that "these displays are running off a standard PC with a commercial graphics card. Most other parts are also available — if not off the shelf — then fairly quickly from standard suppliers."

The researchers, who include Stewart Lang of the computer laboratory at Cambridge, say the idea for the display was prompted by the availability of fast new liquid crystals.

These can switch on and off about 100 times faster than those using previous materials. Cambridge has built its system using a ferroelectric liquid crystal shutter and cathode ray tube to mimic a high-speed LCD. The next model will also use an LCD imaging system, Mr. Lang said.

New eye surgery — miracle cure or curse?

By Luran Neergaard
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Ronald Bates needed to wear glasses only occasionally, for reading. Yet when he heard that an operation could cure his farsightedness, he had it the next day.

The surgery almost blinded him. A corneal transplant saved his vision, but he's still night-blind and extremely sensitive to daylight.

Bates now knows the procedure, called hexagonal keratotomy, is controversial. Some doctors say it's so dangerous they won't perform it.

"You wouldn't believe the pain that I've gone through... thinking it was going to be a miracle cure and it hasn't been," said

Bates, 48, of Rome, Georgia. "It's a terrible, terrible surgery and it needs to be taken off the market."

The surgery is an offshoot of radial keratotomy, in which doctors cut tiny diagonal slits on the cornea to flatten the eye and correct nearsightedness. The national institutes of health studied thousands of RK patients and found complications were relatively rare.

In hexagonal keratotomy, the surgeon cuts a five-sided shape on the cornea to increase its curvature and correct farsightedness.

Doctors at Emory University are treating patients who suffered severe infections from RK. In some cases, they insert contact

lenses to flatten warped corneas; others require corneal transplants.

"We're very concerned that this is being done... without any demonstrated evidence that it's a safe and effective procedure," said Dr. Keith Thompson.

The procedure was developed by Dr. Antonio Mendez in Mexico in the 1980s.

Proponents say it works well. In a study by Dr. Charles Casebeer of Flagstaff, Arizona, he reported that of 50 eyes operated on, 85 per cent achieved satisfactory vision and none had significant vision loss.

Critics say hexagonal keratotomy has never undergone extensive scientific scrutiny

— Casebeer's is the largest published study.

Hexagonal cuts are slow to heal and more susceptible to infection and corneal warping, which causes vision problems even with glasses, said Dr. William Basuk of Emory.

"We've seen many more patients with complications from the hexagonal than we've seen from RK in the same amount of time, despite the fact that more RKs are being done," Basuk said.

Casebeer, considered the nation's leading hexagonal keratotomy surgeon, said the key is choosing an experienced doctor. Good results depend on extreme precision and above-average dexterity, he said.

Bates, who is suing Dr. Gregory Baer of Rome, claims the procedure almost blinded him.

He attended an eye seminar in June 1991 with his wife, who had a successful radial keratotomy operation. His hexagonal keratotomy operation the next day didn't improve his vision enough, so he had several follow-up procedures, one of which allegedly caused a painful infection.

He turned to Emory, where he received a cornea transplant in January. Another transplant is planned for his other eye.

"I was led to believe it was a proven surgery," said Bates, who missed three months of work during the operations. "I wasn't told I

was going to be experimented on."

Baer declined comment on the advice of his attorney, but wrote in a magazine for eye doctors that he had performed hexagonal keratotomy successfully on more than 200 eyes. Casebeer praised him as one of the few successful HK surgeons.

Dr. Lee Nordan of San Diego quit doing hexagonal keratotomy and now treats patients who suffer complications. But he cautions that each patient's risk is different. If the procedure's prognosis improves, he said he'll perform it again.

"The risk will never get to zero... but we need to correct farsightedness. We're all working on better ways."

Late-starter Vietnam hopes to beat AIDS threat

By John Rogers
Reuter

HANOI — With alarm bells ringing over an AIDS explosion in Asia, Vietnam is fast emerging as a problem zone. Experts say it still has a chance of slowing the spread but that may take a change of attitude.

A leap in the number of confirmed cases of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that can cause AIDS has health workers in Vietnam remembering with horror the beginnings of Thailand's epidemic five years ago.

But they say a heavy-handed approach by authorities could make things worse. Police are rounding up people seen as the main cause of the problem — mainly drug addicts but also prostitutes — and treating them in rehabilitation centres.

This sort of action and other examples of the "crack-down" approach, like official calls for mandatory HIV tests of foreign residents and a ban on HIV-positive people marrying, has alarmed aid agen-

cies who feel that blaming the disease on people at the margins of society will do nothing to stop its spread in society as a whole.

"HIV infection is not and should not be considered a criminal offence," Vietnam's national AIDS committee and the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) said in a report last month.

World Health Organisation (WHO) experts cite Vietnam, along with India, China and Burma, as a cause of concern in a region which may produce more new AIDS infections than anywhere else in the world over the next few years.

"Nobody expected things would go so quickly and in this way," said Barbara Franklin, a consultant for Care International in Hanoi. "It's happening in exactly the same way as Thailand."

She cited tests showing 40 per cent of drug-users in some Ho Chi Minh City treatment centres were HIV-positive, compared with 34 per cent in 1988 tests in Bangkok.

In Thailand, the disease went on to invade the general

population over 18 months and Thai health officials now estimate HIV infects up to 400,000 people.

From only 12 confirmed HIV-positive cases at the start of this year, Vietnam now has 490 along with nine cases of full-blown AIDS. In Thailand, where nearly half of the 2,000 people with AIDS have already died, things started the same way.

HIV is spread by the exchange of bodily fluids, mainly through sex or contact with contaminated needles or surgical equipment.

If it grows into AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) the immune system is destroyed and a sufferer can die of common illnesses, which they can no longer fight off.

Foreign experts say cases should be multiplied by 300 for a realistic estimate, giving 147,000 HIV-positives.

though Dr. Ngo Thi Khanh of the AIDS Committee prefers a multiple of 10 to 100 — giving a still-worrying 4,900 to 49,000.

The figures have risen rapidly because random testing has been replaced by target testing of intravenous drug-users — a high risk group because they often share needles.

Seven AIDS deaths have been confirmed, and Dr. Khanh expects about 20 by the end of this year.

Foreign experts believe Vietnam still has time to tackle the crisis provided it acts now to make people more aware of AIDS and how it spreads, primarily through unprotected sex.

"If they take the Thai example seriously, they can slow the thing down much faster than Thailand did," Dr. Franklin said.

Deputy Prime Minister

Phan Van Khai said last week fighting AIDS was a priority. The government would try to prevent and eliminate drug addiction and prostitution while educating people to protect themselves against the disease, he told the National Assembly.

"If the government starts looking at prostitutes and drug abusers as part of society, not as outcasts, and developing programmes to deal with sex workers and the drug problem, I think they will have a better chance of controlling it," said the UNDP's Jo Ann Schop, coordinating U.N. and aid agency efforts.

"As long as they treat it as a criminal and enforcement issue, we're going to see an incredible spread among drug abusers and prostitutes," she told Reuters.

Prostitution is illegal and therefore scarcely controlled, but there are thought to be some 400,000 women in Vietnam's sex industry. Experts say they must be educated along with their clients about AIDS and should be trained for other jobs.

U.N. agencies plan to step up work among exposed groups like the thousands of street children in Ho Chi Minh City, develop more mother-and-child and family planning clinics, improve the quality of local condoms and assist education programmes.

"We want Vietnam to plan, we want Vietnam not to believe it is isolated," said Dr. Schop.

It was unfortunate, she said, that the AIDS explosion had coincided with Vietnam's 1990s opening to tourism and foreign investment, which had made Vietnamese believe AIDS was something brought in by foreigners.

AIDS Conference Virus progressing more impressively than science

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press

BERLIN — At the conclusion of the ninth International Conference on AIDS, Dr. James Curran said he was "more impressed with the progress of the virus than the progress of the science."

"The virus continues to be the focus, in terms of its march through the world population," said Dr. Curran, who directs the AIDS programme at the U.S. centres for disease control and prevention.

The World Health Organisation released a new report showing that 14 million people are now infected with the AIDS virus and 20 million more will be infected by the end of the decade.

That represents about 3 million new infections per year, or 60,000 during the week-long AIDS Conference alone. The conference ended this week.

"We must accept that scientific progress is coming in small steps, not leaps and bounds," said Dr. Michael Merson, director of the World Health Organisation AIDS Programme.

Gloom about the pace of scientific progress was widespread, but some suggested that scientists are on the verge of a second wave of AIDS research.

"I would urge people not to come out of here with a sense of hopelessness," said Martin Delaney, director of Project Inform, an AIDS treatment and advocacy organisation in San Francisco.

He pointed to conference reports on two impending advances.

One was the development of new drugs, including "antisense" drugs intended to confuse the virus and stop its reproduction. The other was a trial to begin this year in which genes will be inserted into human cells to make them resistant to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or

HIV, that causes AIDS.

Although Dr. Merson sketched a grim picture of the future of the epidemic, he also released a study indicating that an ambitious \$3 billion-a-year prevention programme could halve the number of AIDS cases in developing countries by 2000.

"The world cannot afford not to find this money," he said at the conclusion of the conference. "We can save 10 million lives, and we must."

Many notable reports, promising or discouraging, were presented at the conference.

Participants had eagerly awaited the first results of a study that used two anti-AIDS drugs in combination to fight the virus. Excitement faded when Dr. Margaret Fischl of the University of Miami reported only slight improvements in patients given the combined therapy.

A French study known as the Concorde Trial suggested that the drug AZT was of no benefit in forestalling AIDS symptoms in people infected with the virus.

Other studies have found value in early use of AZT. Researchers have yet to sort out the contradictory results, but all studies show that AZT is useful for only a limited time, before the virus becomes resistant to it.

Improved AIDS vaccines are producing levels of immunity 10 times higher than earlier ones. The U.S. government said it is beginning to plan new trials of vaccine effectiveness in thousands of people for late 1994 or 1995.

Needle exchange programmes were found to be dramatically effective at altering the behaviour of abusers of injected drugs, researchers said. In one study, more than 80 per cent of drug abusers changed their behaviour to reduce their risk.

Those who were sexually active used condoms for birth control, but many did not use them to prevent AIDS when other means of birth control were available.

Some prostitutes in Nairobi remained free of HIV infection for up to eight years despite an average of 32 sexual contacts per year with HIV-infected men.

Researchers have also found intriguing immune-system quirks in men who have survived HIV infection for years without getting sick. The hope is that studies of these long-term survivors will enable doctors to make long-

term survivors of all AIDS patients.

Dr. Jonas Salk, whose polio vaccine made him the saviour of millions of children around the world more than three decades ago, hinted earlier in the week that he had achieved important new results with an experimental AIDS vaccine.

The results, when they were finally released, were something quite different. Dr. Salk and his colleagues reported that the vaccine produced only the slightest slowing of virus buildup in infected patients. Virologists found the results confusing and unimpressive.

SOLUTIONS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

"Superstitions"

1. A white or bright hued plume is supposed to be "good medicine".
2. The reflection was thought to be a part of the soul and to break the substance on which it was reflected was to injure the soul itself.
3. No, it does not.
4. Because the Egyptian catheaded goddess Pasht was so endowed.
5. Because the ancient Greeks and Romans used salt in their sacrifices, and to spill it was an ill omen.
6. No.
7. Opal.
8. A mascot or a charm.

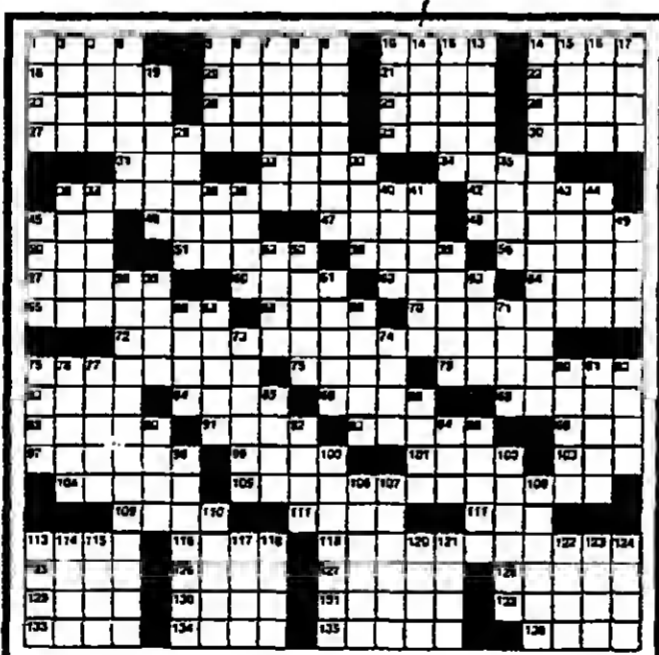
PUZZLES

1. OXALIS
2. ACACIA
3. JUNIPER
4. LOBELIA
5. ROSEMARY
6. PRIMROSE
7. JACARANDA
8. PORTULACA
9. AGAPANTHUS
10. PYRACANTHA

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ABUNDANT SUPPLY
By Henry Salsband

- ACROSS
- 1 Act the tough
 - 5 Pile
 - 10 Eastern European
 - 14 Vague
 - 18 Cope
 - 20 Bay window
 - 21 Cure or greed
 - 22 Bread spread
 - 23 Race computer
 - 24 Bud's stream
 - 25 Tact
 - 26 Capricious
 - 28 Phenomenon
 - 30 Phenomenon
 - 31 Phenomenon
 - 32 Sim — finish
 - 33 "a party"
- DOWN
- 1 Fall short
 - 2 Florence's river
 - 3 Soccer
 - 4 Slenderly
 - 5 Biting need
 - 6 Plover
 - 7 Group of seven
 - 8 Biscuit
 - 9 Chisel
 - 10 Asses as a tax
 - 11 Decisive
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 - 32 Decisive
 - 33 Decisive



Last Week's Cryptogram

1. As quiet falling things go, nothing is quite as white falling snow.
2. Jaded tobacco lobbyist is overjoyed due to successful verbal efforts.
3. Given that peanut cost peanuts, lot cost lot, is the cost of living, life?
4. Lissome tells us: "You are as any main main, mister."

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. LJBKX QCBJ PVJX LJBVI AVNCAVE TX
PIJXNZXT YKO YZTZICNYA
JBEJSTHE JEICNYOH JXA EQKBH

—By Earl Ireland

2. PQYZ SZCXNKOT CHINKROT NUURX CNP
XQY PLIU "CHQLXXRCHQ" RZ QRC
NOGQNKYX CLSG QRC QYNL IYTOTU

—By Rita Salvato

3. "EVBX BN EBTN" LUKEZ SJONLBJOY
ZCECK BANCO SJONLBLC AUKBEE
BLOCK NJ B KCB

—By Eugene T. Malaska

4. IDRRM SOUP WORKWHOW LP UOFFABKUS
GRW ILP PALFF OR GFDPIM WOBOWHO

—By Ed Haddleson



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

Tragedy would be overcome

(Continued from page 1)

"If I thought it would really bring any results I might have thought about it," King Hussein said.

"But quite frankly," he added, "I think there is a process going on, there are genuine attempts to get somewhere, with all due respect to the approach of others, my approach has been to avoid the theatricals and address substance."

A student asked the 57-year-old monarch if he had any regrets for his 40-year reign, or wishes he had done anything differently. He laughed and replied, "I suppose thinking back, yes, many things I regret having done but at any given moment in my life I don't think I would have done anything differently, given the facts and the knowledge and the commitment I had, to do my best."

King Hussein Tuesday met with Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Robert Foley and Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Lee Hamilton. King Hussein discussed with the two issues of common interest at the regional and international levels, particularly the peace process, democracy and human rights.

The King also had a meeting with several members of the House, the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Appropriations Committee.

The King said at the meeting that as changes sweep the world and as it prepares to enter a new stage, he would always defend freedoms and adhere to the principles which he had for generations struggled to safeguard. The King briefed the congressmen on the democratisation process in Jordan and the process of endorsing the National Charter through a general conference, stressing that these measures contribute a framework for public participation in the decision-making process in Jordan.

The King also familiarised the

representatives with Jordan's achievements in various fields despite the scarcity of natural resources and the pressures and challenges it has been facing.

On the peace process, he said the opportunity now to achieve a just and comprehensive peace which future generations would accept and protect should not be wasted, pointing that the U.S. position supporting the peace process had become more active "which raises hopes of achieving progress in the process on the various tracks."

He said dialogue was the way to build understanding and respect and cooperation between the nations adding that freedom, democracy and respect for human rights are the basis for building civilised societies.

The King later answered questions by the audience on several issues including schools of political thought in the Middle East, the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis and other matters.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki, the King's Military Advisor His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Moham-

mad, Her Royal Highness Princess Ghaida Talal, Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz, Minister of Finance Sami Gammo and Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Faysal Al Tarawneh.

Earlier in the day, King Hussein met with Defence Secretary Les Aspin at the Department of Defence.

As the King arrived at the Defence Department, he was received by Mr. Aspin, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell and senior aides. The King was accorded an official reception and reviewed the guards of honour.

The King had an extensive meeting with Mr. Aspin, Gen. Powell and senior defence officials.

On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by Dr. Majali, Dr. Karaki, Prince Talal, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hafez Miral, Dr. Tarawneh, Royal Protocol Chief Mohammad Al Udwan, the chief of staff of the Royal Air Force and the Jordanian military attaché in Washington.

The two sides exchanged views on various regional and international issues, and reviewed bilateral relations and means of enhancing them.

Experts present shared vision

(Continued from page 1)

The Palestinians should retain the administrative apparatus set up by Israel's military government and simply replace Israelis with Palestinians to ensure orderly transition, the report said.

The World Bank has estimated previously that giving the territories a viable economy will take at least \$1 billion in investment in infrastructure and industries.

The Palestinians should immediately set up commercial banks and keep taxes and government interference down, the report said.

Israel should tear down trade barriers that bar Palestinians from selling produce in Israel. Palestinians may initially be reluctant to permit free trade with Israel, wishing to protect young industries, but should eventually follow suit, Mr. Hausman said.

Trade with the Palestinians and ultimately with Jordan could be Israel's entry into other Arab markets. One proposal is to establish a Middle East bank for cooperation and development to fuel the three economies and generate credit.

"Implementing this is going far beyond the end of the (Arab) boycott," Mr. Hausman said, referring to the Arab refusal to trade with Israel since its inception.

The economists said that while there should be free movement of goods and services, the labour market should be restricted because of high unemployment in each of the three economies.

Some 100,000 Palestinians should initially work in Israel until the Palestinian economy has generated enough steam to employ them, Mr. Hausman said. Before Israel sealed off the occupied territories March 31, some 120,000 Palestinians worked in Israel, most in menial jobs. Today, the figure is down to about 45,000.

The economists first came together in January 1992 under the auspices of Harvard's Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East. Some had doubts and misgivings in the beginning, but changed their views during 18 months of work, said Anna Karasik, the institute's associate director.

Among the participants, the Associated Press reported, were Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, a former labour minister in Jordan, Jawad Anani, member of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, Stanley Fisher, former chief economist of the World Bank, Daniel Gottlieb, senior economist at the Bank of Israel, and Ghassan Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

Israel suggests speedy empowerment

(Continued from page 1)

convince Israel to change its position one cannot expect progress," Dr. Allaf said.

"The Arabs are demanding the only thing without which you cannot establish peace — complete withdrawal," Mr. Allaf said. "We are ready to discuss all the other elements."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin admitted Wednesday during a military radio broadcast that he had been disappointed with the slow progress of the Middle East peace talks.

"I thought that progress at the peace talks would be quicker, that has been my greatest disappointment," Mr. Rabin said.

He added he was wrong to predict reaching an autonomy agreement with the Palestinians within nine months of taking office.

"We want peace and we will get there," he pledged. "It will of course take time, but we will not yield on questions which we consider fundamental, notably security."

Mr. Rabin ousted the rightist coalition of Likud party Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir a year ago.

At the time he promised to accelerate the peace talks launched in October 1991 and predicted a self-rule agreement with the Palestinians within nine to 12 months.

Mr. Rabin, touring road construction sites, said the Arabs were to blame for not answering his government's peace overtures. He said: "We are not receiving an appropriate response from the Arab side."

Mr. Rabin said a boom in road construction reflected Israel's changing economic priorities under his rule.

Shortly after taking office Mr. Rabin, 71, froze new housing contracts in the occupied territories, allowing completion of 14,500 units already begun. He vowed to shift priorities and speed up the sale of state companies.

But unemployment, fuelled by a surge of immigrants from the former Soviet Union, remains close to a record 11 per cent.

U.S. visit boosts Jordan's role

(Continued from page 1)

King Hussein has repeatedly distanced himself from President Saddam Hussein and Jordan continued to observe the sanctions on Iraq in compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

King Hussein, however, has been reluctant to drag Jordan into any effort that would upset the intricate balance with the regime in Baghdad for both domestic and regional considerations. The Kingdom still receives its full oil supplies at half price from Iraq. Furthermore, Jordan's national security could suffer from any further troubles inside Iraq itself particularly from threats to its territorial integrity and weakness in the neighbouring state.

The Jordanian sceptics feel that upon return to Amman, the King and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali might have to lay the ground for a possible breakthrough with the Israelis in the peace talks, mainly by taking a stronger stand against those who are opposed to a peace settlement and other diehard supporters of the Iraqi regime. At least dissenting voices, whether in mosques or in the press, would have to be subdued as a result of the new rapprochement with Washington, the sceptics say.

The King in fact, just before he left on the U.S. trip, lashed out at those in the press and elsewhere who want to have it both ways: Call for democracy at home and support repression against fellow Arabs. On continual basis before that, King Hussein had criticised, but did not take action against, those who used public fora, like the

mosques, to oppose peace negotiations with the "Jews" and those who sow seeds of religious and social strife in the Jordanian society in pursuit of their policies.

King Hussein's visit to Washington coincided with the opening of the 10th round of the bilateral peace talks. Dr. Majali, who had been chief negotiator to the peace talks until he became prime minister in late May, took the opportunity to instruct his team not to step ahead of the Palestinian track in making progress.

A few days later, the King told reporters in Washington that it is about time that the people could see some type of tangible results.

"I am hopeful, I am optimistic, I am determined to do whatever we can to make progress towards a settlement which brings security and confidence in the future," he said. But he was sure to reiterate that Jordan will not sign a peace agreement until progress is made in negotiations with the Palestinians.

Jordanian officials, who view the King's visit to the U.S. as a major success, insist that the sceptics' contention that there may be a price to pay for the new rapprochement with Washington is mere speculation. "Take another look at what the King said in Washington on Monday," a senior official said. "His Majesty's commitment to democracy, pluralism and policy of inclusion is unwavering." The official added, stressing that "the Americans know that there is no price to exact at the expense of Jordanian democracy and other fundamental policies."

U.N. puts out posters

(Continued from page 1)

ters and suspected arms caches. Street riots followed in which dozens of Somalis and five peacekeepers — four Moroccans and a Pakistani — were killed.

The U.N. says it wants to try him for war crimes. Gen. Aideded maintains that the June 5 killings were a spontaneous reaction by ordinary Somalis to attempts to wreck his organisation.

It believes it has smashed his power base and destroyed his political effectiveness by denying him the right to broadcast from his bombed-out radio station or address rallies.

Journalists who saw Gen. Aideded on Tuesday said he appeared relaxed and unruffled in a suit and tie. He told Voice of America radio he expected his people to defend him.

Somalis close to Gen. Aideded painted a different picture of a man on the run, changing house every few hours, a fugitive in his own fiefdom turning closer to Islam.

"You know, I am here in the city of Mogadishu and I am protected by God and my people," Gen. Aideded told VoA. "I am not worried about the (U.N.) search."

Overnight Wednesday, gunmen fired machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades at the U.N. headquarters, and at least two Somalis were believed to have been killed when American and Tunisian forces returned fire, said military spokesman Major David Stockwell.

It was the first such attack on the sprawling, fortified compound in about two weeks. Maj. Stockwell said no U.N. forces suffered casualties.

He said the attacks began at about 8 p.m. Tuesday and continued until midnight. Another attack occurred at about 5 a.m. Wednesday.

Gen. Aideded gave interviews to VoA, the British Broadcasting Corporation, and NBC-TV, a commercial U.S. television network.

The commander of Italian forces in Mogadishu said Wednesday U.S. Marines had intruded in an area under Italian control and provoked protests by Somalis during which an Italian paratrooper was slightly hurt.

General Bruno Loi said on Italy's GRI state radio that the U.N. military command had failed to warn him the Marines were entering an area of the Somali capital controlled by Italian troops. He said he wanted an explanation from the U.N. Turkish commander, Gen. Cevik Bir.

Italy's ANSA national news agency said Gen. Loi had a shouting match with Gen. Bir over the radio about the incident.

The Italian commander said it was unacceptable that troops from another contingent should be deployed without warning in an area under his responsibility and demanded assurances from the U.N. command that such incidents would not recur.

Loggers, environmentalists gear up for war

By Jon Ferry
Reporter

CLAYOQUOT SOUND, BRITISH COLUMBIA — Deep in the rain forest on Canada's west coast, veteran logger Dave Stevens inhales a cigarette and outlines his views on environmental activists.

"I'd like to smash their faces in," Mr. Stevens says beside a stack of giant hemlock and balsam trees he has helped chop down with his German-made chainsaw.

The anger of Mr. Stevens, 54, is deeply personal. A year-and-a-half ago, his 25-year-old son was laid off from a nearby pulp mill. His wife, Elsie, and one of his daughters also lost their jobs at a local plywood plant. "I blame the environmentalists for that," he says.

The lush Vancouver Island region where Mr. Stevens is standing in traditional logger's talk boots is home to salmon-rich rivers, fjords and many of the world's oldest and tallest trees. It is also home to an ugly battle between anti-logging activists dedicated to saving what they say is a dying ecology and forest workers desperate to preserve a dying way of life.

"The young people will not have jobs in the forest industry. I'm lucky if I can make it to retirement," Mr. Stevens explains.

Canada is the world's largest exporter of forest products. In recent years, however, environmental groups have focused world attention on the way its lumber industry is gobbling up the last remaining stands of uncut temperate rain forest.

Earlier this year, the British Columbia government was pilloried in a full-page advertisement taken out by environmental groups in the New York Times.

A coalition of European groups urged a ban on the import of Canadian forest products.

"There's no place any longer where paradise isn't under threat. This is the closest thing to paradise that I know," says Valerie Langer, a head-and-breakfast operator and director of the Friends of Clayoquot Sound environmental group.

Over the past five years, Ms. Langer and other activists have engaged in numerous anti-logging protests. Police have made more than 100 arrests at blockades of local logging roads.

Ms. Langer says she herself spent nine days in jail and is an advocate of peaceful civil disobedience.

But other environmentalists are more extreme. Already this year, two boats and a bridge in the region have been set ablaze.

In March, demonstrators

opposed to logging broke through the locked doors of the British Columbia legislature, shattering a window and injuring a security guard.

In April, British Columbia Premier Michael Harcourt announced that his government would permanently reserve about one-third of the sound and allow logging on most of the remainder. The decision served only to inflame the environmentalists, supported by lawyer Robert Kennedy Jr., son of the slain U.S. senator.

They announced they would hold mass demonstrations this summer to halt the logging by Canada's largest forest company, MacMillan Bloedel L.

Toronto lawyer Clayton Ruby predicted thousands of law-abiding citizens would break the law. "The judges will look out at courtrooms full of doctors, accountants, engineers, lawyers, housewives and students. They will see their colleagues, their classmates and their children," he said.

Militant environmentalist Paul Watson, of the California-based Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, said his group has driven spikes or long nails into more than 20,000 Clayoquot Sound trees to deter logging activity.

Mr. Stevens, a MacMillan Bloedel employee, says he is worried his chainsaw will strike a spike and seriously injure him. "All the loggers here feel extremely bitter towards the environmentalists," he says.

Mr. Watson, however, has no sympathy for loggers. "The loggers have had it their way for far too long," he says.

Former forestry worker Mike Morton, who heads a local industry support group, calls Mr. Watson irresponsible. "Paul Watson is a jerk. The guy is nothing less than a terrorist. He's a clown and he belongs in a circus," he says.

Mr. Morton says his group will launch its own series of counter-protests this summer. "The residents of the rural community of British Columbia are not going to put up with any more nonsense from this fringe element on the West coast of Vancouver Island," he told Reuters.

Frank Van Eynde, a hospital administrator who is mayor of the town of Tofino, says he is concerned that the protests could turn violent. "There are extremists on both sides," he says.

But George Patterson, a U.S. businessman now living in Tofino, says the tide of public opinion is turning. "In five to 10 years, it could be sooner, the notion of destroying these forests to get the timber will be about as popular as shooting elephants to get their ivory," he says.

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Jordan bankers have wider responsibilities, Aqel says

BY Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One of the most important changes undergone by our banking sector has been the quiet transfer of key posts to a new generation of bankers who were exposed to modern financial techniques and who are more aware of the sophisticated role of banks in shaping the economy of the nation.

According to Mufleh Aqel, executive manager at Arab Bank Ltd., the old generation carried the task of founding the banking system in an environment that was characterised by scarce resources and qualifications and, for a while, by the absence of a central bank. As such, this old generation of bankers adopted over the years a strategy of extreme caution, which focused on personal trust for short-term lending decisions.

Mr. Aqel, who was addressing an economic forum organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan last week, said the new generation of bankers is now venturing into long-term funding of major projects and shifting the focus from personal evaluation to an overall analysis of projects and examination of cash flows taking into consideration the fact that the big schemes will not bear fruit until after many years of construction and operation.

The senior banker also examined the changes in the banking sector from a different perspective, by classifying them into the following five stages:

1) Between 1925-1967

During this period, the banking sector was limited in terms of the number of banks, their assets and functions, especially, as the central bank had not been set up until 1964.

Lending during this period was only for short-term financing through discounting commercial bills or extending overdrafts.

By the end of this stage, total credits stood at JD 39 million and the local investment volume did not exceed JD 912,000.

2) Between 1968-1973

This stage was a quiet period as

no major or important developments took place. As such, the banking sector was mainly concerned with maintaining its stand and credibility, especially because of economic and security considerations which were prevailing and which put some pressure on the banking liquidity at that time.

3) Between 1974-1981

These years witnessed an economic and banking boom. The number of banks surged to 17 with 174 branches, their total assets climbed to JD 1,330 million and credit facilities amounted to JD 721 million.

This stage was characterised by the first launching of bonds and the first syndicated loan extension. The Amman Financial Market was also set up during these years.

4) Between 1982-1990

This period was the most

1992	1991	1990	1985	1980	1975	1970	1965	
20	20	22	18	18	12	8	8	Number of banks
344	333	307	272	142	79	41	25	Number of branches
2,785,062	2,448,689	1,930,151	1,415,256	673,279				Deposits in Jordanian dinars
1,964,022	1,573,284	712,428	331,912	128,199				Deposits in foreign currencies
4,749,084	5,021,353	2,542,579	1,747,168	808,478	158,714	57,574	44,104	Total deposits
390,448	424,079	388,766	228,291	58,609	24,478	3,341	0	Treasury bills and bonds
90,793	76,632	71,137	38,176	9,639	1,267	895	407	Local investments
348,458	348,527	312,307	201,188	76,758	14,455	7,985	5,123	Capital and reserves of banks
2,220,586	1,967,977	1,863,795	1,274,415	563,656	126,744	45,548	33,299	Credit facilities
79.80%	80.40%	96.60%	90.10%	85.00%				Ratio of credits to dinar deposits
46.80%	49.00%	70.60%	73.00%	69.80%	75.20%	79.00%	75.40%	Ratio of credits to total deposits
6,311,115	5,989,060	4,090,908	2,392,082	1,070,497	226,223	76,398	60,915	Assets of commercial banks
2,012,841	2,019,111	1,631,534	763,950	578,536	199,872	106,986	49,113	Assets of Central Bank of Jordan
3.257	2.779	2.613	1.970	1.151				GDP at market price/ JD million

Baku airport under rebel control

MOSCOW (AP) — Rebel forces and some police took control of Baku airport and other strategic points in the city, the agency Post-Factum reported here Wednesday.

The independent Russian agency, quoting military sources, said some of the rebel troops were stationed at entry points into the city in case of armed clashes between the rebels and Azerbaijani police.

But the majority of the renegade troops under Surat Guseinov, a former army colonel sacked by President Abulfaz Elchibey, were still about 40 kilometres from the capital city, the agency said.

According to various radio reports, both the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry and rebel soldiers were quoted as saying there would be no bloodshed.

The oews came as hundreds of people took to the streets in Baku Wednesday morning to take part in a demonstration organised by the Popular Front in support of Mr. Elchibey.

Mr. Elchibey, who fled Baku to his home region of Nakhichevan six days ago, told visiting intellectuals earlier this week that he would only return if Col. Guseinov's men agree to pull

back to their former positions in Adjikahul, 120 kilometres south-east of Baku.

He was forced to flee the capital after Col. Guseinov's rebels advanced from their base in Gyandzha, Azerbaijan's second city, towards Baku vowing to oust him.

However, Col. Guseinov Wednesday released a statement dissociating himself from recent "confrontations" in Azerbaijan.

Without detailing which incidents he was talking about, Col. Guseinov said they had been carried out by uncontrollable elements passing themselves off as his men.

The Popular Front said that in the past few days several of their members had been killed in various regions of the country by Col. Guseinov's men.

In the district of Samur, on the border with the Russian Federal Republic of Dagestan, a local member of the Popular Front was fatally wounded. The front also said that two local representatives were killed in Shemakha and their bodies burned.

The Azerbaijan parliament was meeting in Baku Wednesday, although Col. Elchibey, pressed by parliamentary Speaker Geidar Aliyev to return, had still not left

Nakhichevan.

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Gasimov Wednesday travelled to Nakhichevan to meet with the exiled president, the Assa-Itada News Agency reported.

Mr. Gasimov Tuesday held talks with Col. Guseinov in his stronghold of Gyandzha and later with Mr. Aliyev.

Eldar Salaev, president of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, told Mr. Aliyev during talks Wednesday that Mr. Elchibey was also prepared to hold talks with Mr. Guseinov.

Mr. Elchibey was elected president last year after former President Ayaz Muttalibov fled to Moscow.

But his popularity rapidly began to fall after a series of heavy Azeri defeats against Armenia in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, economic difficulties and a growing nationalism took their toll.

There are persistent, although unconfirmed, rumours that Mr. Muttalibov is set to return to Baku.

Col. Guseinov has given President Elchibey two days to resign, Turkish Radio said Wednesday, quoting the Baku-based news agency (ATA).

It said Col. Guseinov had set the deadline in a meeting Tuesday with Mr. Gasimov in the rebel stronghold of Gyandzha.

Col. Guseinov said the rebels would enter Baku and "do whatever is necessary" if Mr. Elchibey did not resign within 48 hours.

Meanwhile Turkish businessmen said Turkish firms may pull staff out of Azerbaijan and put investment plans on hold due to political turmoil in the oil-rich republic.

"We may withdraw our Turkish employees to Azerbaijan if conditions get worse," Guntekin Koksal, chairman of private Pet Holding, told Reuters.

Pet Holding, which has about 30 employees in Azerbaijan, is constructing a \$7.5-million leather processing plant there. It is also involved in oil exploration and drilling deals.

Mr. Koksal said some U.S. companies had already started to withdraw employees from Azerbaijan.

A Turkish oil official said the current chaos might delay major investments in Azeri oilfields.

Turkey's state-run petroleum company TPAO hopes to sign several oil exploration and production deals with Azerbaijan.

Japan LDP rebels launch new party

TOKYO (R) — Defectors from Japan's ruling party formed a new centre-right party Wednesday in the hope of ending almost four decades of single-party government.

Former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, who heads the Shinseito (New Birth Party), told a Tokyo news conference:

"Our party was formed to put an end to one party rule and seize political power. We must act as a nucleus."

Mr. Hata has already opened informal talks with the existing opposition and other Liberal Democratic Party rebels, hoping a coalition after July 16 polls will end the LDP's 38-year rule.

While Mr. Hata, 57, is the Shinseito's urban front man, former LDP Secretary-General Ichiro Ozawa, 51, also expected to play a key role behind the scenes. Both men were once lieutenants of LDP paymaster Shin Kanemaru, fled last year by a huge illegal funding scandal.

After Mr. Kanemaru was disgraced, Mr. Hata and Mr. Ozawa espoused the cause of urgent political reform to change Japan's notorious "money politics." The pair spearheaded last Friday's parliamentary revolt against the LDP government of Prime Minis-

ter Kiichi Miyazawa, which had reneged on promises to legislate against corruption in public life.

"We named the party Shinseito because we were born to press forward with new power, new wind, a new voice..." Mr. Hata told the news conference. "We need drastic political reforms to regain trust in politics."

Earlier, he had said on television: "It's going to be very hard for us because we must tread a thorny path... If we fail at reforming the political system, we will not be able to live up to expectations of a democracy."

Angered that Mr. Miyazawa broke his pledge to clean up politics, Mr. Hata and other supporters in the lower house voted with the opposition to pass a no-confidence motion.

The final split came Tuesday when the 44-strong Hata group, which included eight upper house members, resigned en masse from the LDP and left it in effect without a majority in the decision-making lower house.

Mr. Hata, a former bus company executive, entered politics in 1969, taking over the seat vacated by the death of his father. A conservative moderate who served both as finance and farm minister, Mr. Hata and fellow

conspirator Mr. Ozawa had long been tipped as possible future premiers.

The pugacious Ozawa is widely regarded as the mastermind behind the new party.

Political analysts have noted in recent days that Mr. Ozawa has yet to clear his own name after allegations he was implicated in the scandal that brought down Mr. Kanemaru.

Meanwhile a leading daily said Wednesday Prime Minister Miyazawa's snap election call after Friday's humiliating parliamentary defeat could go down in Japanese history as the "liar's dissolution."

According to Asahi Shimbun, political commentators are casting about for a distinctive label to put on the crisis sparked by Mr. Miyazawa's failure to keep solemn promises to act against widespread corruption in public life.

One possibility being mullied is "liar's dissolution," an unflattering reminder of the verbal onslaught directed at the hapless prime minister in parliament by Socialist Party Chief Sadao Yamahana.

"Miyazawa can no longer be trusted to run this country," Mr. Yamahana said.

Hong Kong talks flop

HONG KONG (R) — China and Britain traded accusations Wednesday after talks on Hong Kong flopped, with London hinting that Peking was biding major economic projects as ransom against the colony's political future.

As Sino-British constitutional talks opened in Peking, three days of negotiations at the lower-level Joint Liaison Group (JLG) ended in Hong Kong with virtually no progress.

At the start of the JLG meeting, the first after six months of stalemate, Hong Kong hopes had been high that China would at least break the logjam on economic issues.

But a joint communiqué said the two sides, at loggerheads for months over Governor Chris Patten's democratic reform plans, had agreed only to continue an international science and technology treaty after the colony returns to China in 1997.

It also said progress had been made on some other treaty issues, but the main points remained unresolved.

British chief negotiator Tony Galsworthy, a Chinese-speaking diplomat who usually chooses his words carefully, accused Peking of deliberately dragging its feet.

"The results from three days of discussion have been pretty marginal," he told a news conference. "It is clear to me that the Chinese side approached this meeting with the intention of allowing only minimal progress at it."

Asked why, he said: "I'm only guessing... that by going slow on this work they can somehow put pressure on the British in the wider context." Analysts said he appeared to be referring to a separate talks on democratic reform, a sixth round of which opened in Peking earlier Wednesday.

British and Hong Kong officials make little secret of their frustration that the constitutional talks have made virtually no progress after five rounds in two months.

But Mr. Galsworthy warned Peking against stalling at the JLG to exert pressure on the political front. "If they do that, I can say that is not effective," he said.

Mr. Galsworthy's Chinese counterpart, Guo Fengmin, rejected the allegation. "It is the British side which has been dragging out the progress of the talks," he told a separate news conference.

Washington urging Nigeria to release the election results. NEC stopped releasing the results abruptly last Wednesday on orders from a high court in Abuja.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Wednesday he deplored the Nigerian government's annulment of this month's presidential election and said Britain would be reassessing relations with its former colony.

Mr. Hurd said in a statement that the decision would increase tensions in the West African state and urged all parties to "respond peacefully."

"I deplore the decision of the Nigerian military government to annul the Nigerian presidential elections, suspend the National Electoral Commission and thereby to stop the transition to civilian rule," Mr. Hurd said in the statement.

"This decision is bound to have serious implications for Nigeria's relations with the international community, and the United Kingdom will have no option but to reassess its own bilateral relations with that country," Mr. Hurd said without elaborating.

A Foreign Office spokesman declined to say whether this meant Britain might withdraw diplomats from Nigeria or downgrade diplomatic relations in some other way. The spokesman said Nigeria's ambassador was being called to the Foreign Office for a meeting later Wednesday.

Aristide agrees to talks with Cedras

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Elected Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the military chief who ousted him will soon sit down for talks, a Security Council ambassador says.

Mr. Aristide agreed Tuesday to hold talks on restoring democracy, a day after the Haitian military commander, Gen. Raoul Cedras, agreed to meet with him. The development could be a major advance in ending Haiti's crisis.

Venezuelan Ambassador Diego Arria said Tuesday that U.N. envoy Dante Caputo, who has been trying to mediate talks to restore civilian rule to Haiti, is making final arrangements for a weekend meeting on the Dutch Caribbean islands of Aruba or Bonaire.

But by late Tuesday evening,

Mr. Caputo's aides had not yet achieved agreement between Mr. Aristide and the Haitian military government on the precise site of the talks, and planned to resume discussions Wednesday.

Despite the development, the U.N.'s oil and arms embargo against Haiti was to have taken effect as scheduled just after midnight Wednesday.

The Security Council approved the embargo last Wednesday, saying it would take effect in a week if military rulers did not make progress toward restoring democracy.

The sanctions are the toughest international pressure yet on the military rulers to allow the restoration of democracy.

Joe Sills, spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Gha-

li, said "an agreement to hold talks would not stop the sanctions" from going into effect.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher also said that such talks would not delay the new embargo.

Gen. Cedras overthrew Mr. Aristide in 1991, seven months after Haiti's first freely elected president took office.

In Port-Au-Prince, the Haitian capital, prominent leftist Max Sam said it appeared that Gen. Cedras was forced to agree to talk with Mr. Aristide — a move he previously rejected — because of the June 8 resignation of the nominal civilian prime minister, Marc Bazin.

The army previously insisted Mr. Bazin should be the proper negotiator with Mr. Aristide.

Nigeria annuls presidential election

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military government annulled Wednesday the first presidential election in a decade with a bombshell announcement which dragged the country deeper into political crisis.

The election has been annulled, an official close to the presidency told Reuters.

State radio later read out an official statement saying the government had suspended the National Electoral Commission (NEC), which has been involved in a series of damaging legal actions since the presidential election on June 12.

The government, led by military President Ibrahim Babangida, also repealed two decrees setting the rules for the contest between southern Moshood Abiola and northerner Basir Tafa.

It also stopped all court proceedings resulting from disputes over the election.

The radio said a decree backing Wednesday's decision had already been signed into law in Africa's most populous nation.

The federal military government statement was given to the radio by Ndaka Irabor, Vice-President Augustus Aikhom's press secretary, the radio said. There was no immediate announcement on whether General Babangida, who seized power in a 1993 palace coup, would stay on beyond Aug. 27, the day he has said he will give up power.

If he stays on, it will be the fourth delay in a troubled and costly civil war programme over which the military has maintained a firm grip.

"We are shocked. We are still hoping that something might come out of the National Defence and Security Council (NDSC) meeting in Abuja," a member of Mr. Abiola's Social Democratic Party (SDP) campaign team said in Lagos.

It was not clear whether the 14-member NDSC, chaired by Gen. Babangida, was still meeting as planned in Abuja, the capital.

"By the time the information sinks in to the people, anything can happen," said an Abiola aide.

Mr. Abiola, a 55-year-old millionaire Muslim businessman, and the SDP unilaterally declared victory at the polls last week on the basis of an unofficial and incomplete declared results.

Mr. Tafa's National Republican Convention, rooted in the mainly Muslim north which has supplied most of Nigeria's leaders, had called for the results to be scrapped and for fresh elections.

Nigerians and international observers generally saw the election as one of the most free and fair since independence from Britain in 1960.

Less than 24 hours before Wednesday's dramatic announcement, the United States government issued a statement in



African National Congress (ANC) supporter the murder of Chris Hani opened Wednesday demonstrates outside the Johannesburg court as the trial of three right-wingers charged with

Mandela, Buthelezi meet in upbeat mood

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Nelson Mandela and Mangosuthu Buthelezi began a much-awaited summit here Wednesday in an upbeat mood, saying they would end the violence that has plagued their rival organisations.

"This is more than just symbolic: When two men of God are chairing the meeting it is more than that," said Chief Buthelezi, leader of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

The meeting was brokered by Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Methodist Bishop Stanley Mogaba, who are co-chairing the session held at a conference centre east of Johannesburg.

Chief Buthelezi said every past bid to end the war between the IFP and the ANC had failed, but that he hoped this one would be successful.

African National Congress (ANC) President Mandela agreed, saying the meeting was "very important."

"We hope to come to some sort of decision by the end of" the meeting, he said.

Arch. Tutu warned, however, that it would be wrong to expect "magic" results from the summit. "We can't just wave a wand and hope that the violence will diminish," Arch. Tutu said.

But he was optimistic that the meeting would yield results, with the simple fact that the meeting had taken place at all sending a positive message to the grassroots of both organisations.

"In the end, the two leaders are on the same side: They have both fought against apartheid," the archbishop said.

Arch. Tutu, winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, said it was significant that every major event in South Africa — such as Wednesday's meeting — was preceded by an upsurge in violence.

He pointed as an example to the killings since Sunday of 45 people in Natal province, where the ANC and the IFP have been engaged for the past eight years in what is described here as a "low-intensity civil war."

"We seek to wipe the tears from their eyes," Arch. Tutu said, referring to victims of the latest killings in Natal. "Let what Mandela and Buthelezi do be for the good of our country."

In the worst of the attacks in Natal, hooded gunmen massacred 13 people in a shooting spree in the rural Murchison area.

The ANC said all were its members or supporters, and a statement from the organisation also noted that "this has been a pattern of violence since September 1990: The violence flares up in the run-up to a major step forward in the negotiating process."

Meanwhile, the trial of three right-wingers charged with the April 10 murder of popular black leader Chris Hani was postponed until Oct. 4 after it opened here Wednesday.

Judge C.F. Eloff, acting on requests by defence counsel, agreed to a postponement and said there would be a procedural hearing on July 30 to look into claims that the state had failed to provide the defence with the proper documents.

"I am satisfied that the request

for a postponement was bona fide," Mr. Eloff said.

The defence said it had insufficient time to prepare the case, citing the large number of expert witnesses to question and difficulties in accessing the defendants held in the maximum security wing of Pretoria Central Prison.

Piet Coetzee, the attorney for alleged trigger man Janusz Walus, also said he had a language barrier to overcome because his client's first language is Polish and his English is not good.

"I takes at least twice as long to communicate with Walus) as it would with an English speaking person," Mr. Coetzee said, calling for a postponement until mid-July.

About 150 members of the African National Congress (ANC) gathered outside the heavily guarded Supreme Court in central Johannesburg from the early hours, chanting, dancing and waving banners until security forces led in flak jackets and with police dogs ordered them to disperse.

The killing of Mr. Hani, general-secretary of the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the most popular ANC leader after Nelson Mandela, had plunged South Africa into its worst post-apartheid political crisis.

SACP Chairman Joe Slovo, ANC vice-president Walter Sisulu and legal department chief Mathew Phosa were seen entering the courthouse, but Mr. Sisulu left shortly after the start of the trial.

173 held in Italy's mafia operation

CATANZARO, Italy (AP) — A huge anti-mafia operation led to the arrest of 173 people near this southern city overnight, breaking up three families, police said Wednesday.

The arrests against the families of clan leaders Girolamo Costanzo, 42, Vincenzo Catanzariti, 38, and Giuseppe Critelli, 46, came following the confessions of a former mafia member turned state's evidence.

It was the first operation of its kind in Catanzaro and was considered important by investigators because until now it had been thought there was little mafia activity in the area. The area's mafia has been essentially concentrated in the Calabria region, 200 kilometres further south.

Magistrates issued a total of 280 arrest warrants, but some people were already in prison while a further 40 managed to escape.

The three families are accused of murder, drug trafficking, racketeering, hold-ups and money-laundering. Catanzariti is suspected of having assassinated two local mafia bosses, Pietro Cosimo in

1990 and Vincenzo Doria in 1991, in order to take over their families.

The racketeering charges against the three families are particularly severe. A business consortium headed by the Lodigiani group supposedly put up 200 millions lire (\$150,000) to win a contract to dig a tunnel under the town of Catanzaro as well as 30 millions lire (\$22,500) a month in "protection" money to the Costanzo and Catanzariti families.

Other businesses that carried out renovation work on the main square outside the city's law courts were also forced to pay hundreds of millions of lire in extortion fees to the clans, according to police.

Meanwhile, former Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita said Tuesday he will give up his parliamentary immunity over allegations he misused funds destined for victims of a 1980 earthquake in southern Italy.

"I am giving up my parliamentary immunity with a serene conscience so that the matter can be

cleared up as soon as possible," the former Christian Democrat premier said.

Magistrates formally warned Mr. De Mita last month that he faced investigation in connection with the quake which struck his native Irpinia area, on the border between the Campania and Basilicata regions.

Some 3,000 people were killed in the disaster while 300,000 homes were destroyed.

Mr. De Mita's brother Michele and several other people have been arrested over the alleged misuse of relief funds to the area.

In a separate development, the government of Italian Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi easily won an initial confidence vote as it risked its political life in an effort to rid state television of party influence.

The government had a comfortable Senate (upper house) majority, with 200 votes in favour and 51 against, in a confidence vote on the first article of a bill to reform the way RAI state television is run.

Crumbling Bolshoi Theatre to be repaired

MOSCOW (AP) — The government has issued a long-awaited order to repair the dilapidated Bolshoi Theatre and relocate performers to a nearby stage in the city's historic centre, a newspaper said.

The state-run Bolshoi, whose ballets and operas have entertained czars, Communist Party leaders and nouveau riches for 168 years, needs a \$300 million renovation to rescue its ornate, red-carpeted hall. It was built in 1825 over an underground river that is now eroding its foundation. Its plumbing dates from the 1920s and its backstage electrical system is a tangle of wires.

Authorities have known about the Bolshoi's problems for years, but have delayed renovations for various reasons, including objections from performers and the tremendous cost. The newspaper Izvestia reported the decision to begin reconstruction, and quoted theatre building director Vladimir Kokonin as welcoming the step.

"The Bolshoi Theatre is our national heritage. It can't be bought, sold or privatised," Mr. Kokonin said. "Only the state — and not private companies, not Russian or foreign entrepreneurs — could be responsible for its preserv."

One of the key reasons for putting off reconstruction has been the lack of an interim home for performance while the repairs are made. Mr. Kokonin told Izvestia that the government solved the problem by ordering space to be made temporarily for the troupe at the nearby Theatre of Operette, which will given another building in the interim.

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100 years of Wimbledon's women

WIMBLEDON (R) — When Britain's Charlotte Sterry won the ladies' singles title at Wimbledon in 1893, she cycled home to an 11-hour ride. The 19-year-old Sterry, who was married to a man named John, was the first woman to win the Wimbledon singles title. She was also the first woman to win the Wimbledon doubles title. Sterry was a professional tennis player and a member of the Wimbledon Club. She was also a member of the Wimbledon Ladies' Club. Sterry was a very successful tennis player and won many titles. She was also a very popular player and was loved by the fans. Sterry was a very good player and was a very successful player. She was also a very popular player and was loved by the fans. Sterry was a very good player and was a very successful player. She was also a very popular player and was loved by the fans.

or Helen Rice, an Irish girl from Tipperary, who won the 1890 title when the entire field numbered four? After the first World War came Suzanne Lenglen, the first great superstar of women's tennis in her daring dresses and coloured cardigans. Later there was "Gorgeous Gussie" Mordan, whose lace-edged panties have passed into Wimbledon legend. Margaret Court, Billie Jean King, Chris Evert — the list of those who have raised the profile of women's tennis is long and varied. This year, in tribute, the All England Club committee have organised a series of reminders to mark the centenary, including an all-female band who will entertain the crowds on finals day next month. But in an age when the winner of the women's singles picks up a prize of £275,000 (\$408,000), it remains increasingly hard to imagine times when vigorous sporting activity in public was deemed unsuitable for young ladies. The first champion was a vicar's daughter called Maud Watson who beat her sister in the final and won 20 guineas (32) for her efforts. Even then, the women's singles was not permitted to start until the men had finished. By the turn of the century, their profile had risen only slowly. Wrote Lottie Dod: "There are few games in which ladies and gentlemen can join, therefore it is all the more necessary that ladies should try to improve their play and not spoil the sport for men as they too frequently do." Not long afterwards, the first overseas champion surfaced, May Sutton of the United States, "a chubby lass with twinkling eyes" according to the official Wimbledon history, outthit all her British rivals, "exhaling with audible effort when she struck the ball." Unlike Monica Seles, she was spared tabloid newspapers bringing along guntrunners to measure the noise. Lenglen, certainly, would have been a modern reporter's dream. In 1919, during the final against 40-year-old Dorothy Lambert Chambers, her father fortified her at changerooms with sugar soaked in brandy. The French player duly won the first of her six titles, proving so popular with the crowds that it precipitated a move to a bigger venue, still the home of today's world-famous fortnight. American Helen Wills Moody was the next overseas talent to dominate the game, her record of eight titles between the wars lasting until Navratilova surpassed it in 1990.

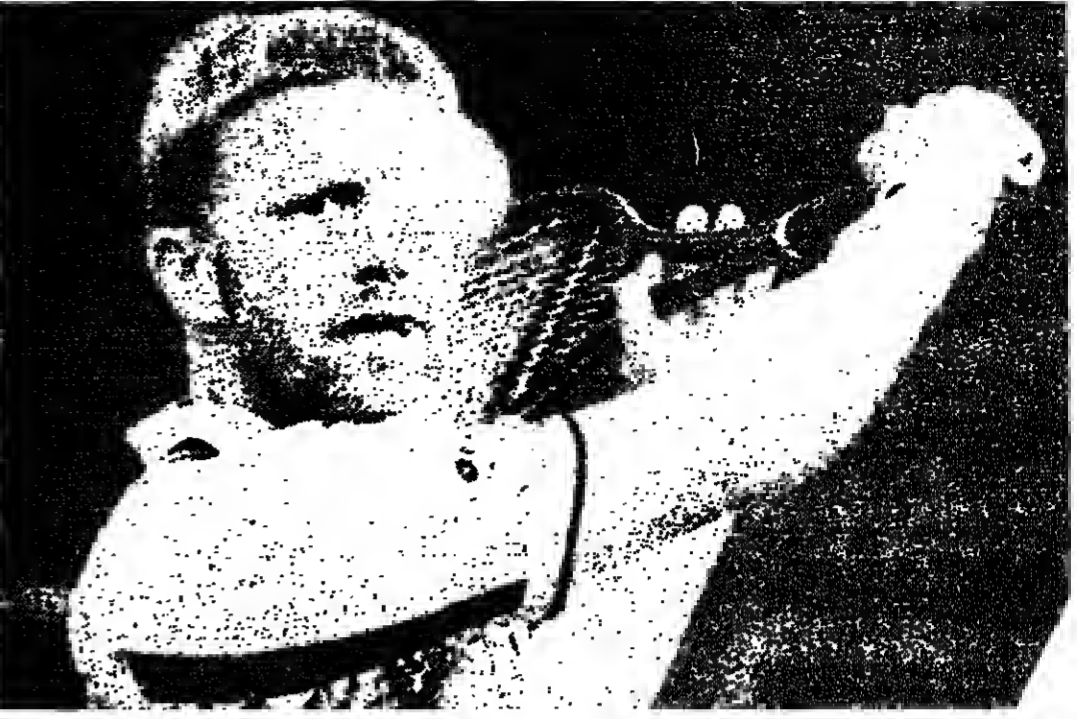


Chris Evert

Court and King were to drag the sport into the modern era, aided by Evert and Evonne Goolagong, and Graf, whose first title was in 1988, is the 36th women's champion in Wimbledon history. If Navratilova wins again to claim a 10th singles crown, she will doubtless be hailed as the finest women's champion of them older first ladies just the same.

Boris tames 'baby boom boom'

LONDON (AFP) — Boris Becker had to produce his best form in over four months to tame the man they call "baby boom boom" in an explosive four-set battle on centre court Tuesday. Marc Goellner, 22, has shot up the rankings, beating Stefan Edberg and Ivan Lendl on the way to the Nice Open title and reaching the last 16 of the French Open. And when he broke the mighty Becker serve in the seventh game to take the first set, it looked as if he might be about to add his German compatriot to his growing collection of scalps from the upper echelons of men's tennis. "It was a good first round for me. My serve was excellent, I hit over 20 aces so I am content. "I think he maybe lacked a little experience of the court and the tournament." Looking sharper than at any time since coming back in April from nearly two months out with injury and illness, Becker shrugged off the loss of the first set to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4. "After the first set he turned his motor on," Goellner said before backing Becker to win a fourth title. "He can win. If he serves like that for sure," he said. Despite the defeat it was an impressive Wimbledon debut for the six foot seven inch Goellner who played his first competitive match on grass at Queen's Club only two weeks ago. He should be a serious Wimbledon proposition next year. "I have got great strokes for grass I just need to get a little more experience," he said. World number one Pete Sampras dropped the first set to Australian left handed Neil Borwick but came through fairly comfortably in four sets. Sampras was glad to feel no reaction from the shoulder injury which had forced him to ask for a Tuesday start in the tournament. "Last Wednesday it was so bad I couldn't brush my teeth," the American said. "But today it felt fine and I thought I served very well." "Sampras had an uncharacteristic lapse when he let a first set 4-2 lead slip. He finally lost the first set 12-10 in the tiebreak but ran out a 6-7, 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 winner. Twelfth seed Michael Chang managed to avoid an unhappy hat-trick of first round exits when he completed a five set victory over the Netherlands Paul Haarhuis. The match was interrupted overnight at 3-1 for Chang in the fifth and final set. The American held serve to go to 4-1, but allowed the Dutch left-hander to pull him back to 4-4. Chang clinched the win with a final game break. 16th seed Thomas Muster, a day court specialist who has never got past the first round at Wimbledon in the three times he has played in his eight year career, was beaten by France's Olivier Delaite 7-5, 6-4, 6-2. The top three seeds in the women's singles, Steffi Graf, Martina Navratilova and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, were all easy first round winners.



German Boris Becker plays a backhand to his opponent (AFP) photo

Graf shrugged off the attentions of a German fan who shouted abuse at her, to beat Australian qualifier Kirrily Sharpe 6-0, 6-0 in 38 minutes. She now plays Britain's Clare Wood. Navratilova, revitalised by winning at Eastbourne last week and bidding for a record tenth title here, beat Australia's Michelle Jaggard-Lai 6-2, 6-1. She has a tricky second round match against South African Ross Nideffer. Under her maiden name Fairbank, Nideffer has twice reached the quarter finals here and has given Navratilova problems in the past. "Nothing spectacular today but I didn't have to be," Navratilova said. Jennifer Capriati, the 7th seed, was given a tougher-than-expected battle by Britain's Shiri Ann Siddall but came through in three sets after dropping the first on a tiebreak. "I was a little off and wasn't really into the groove like I was in the last two sets," Capriati, who is being coached by Australian Paul McNamee for Wimbledon said. Sanchez beat Radha Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia 6-1, 6-1. The Spaniard next plays Australia's Elizabeth Smylie, who overcame British veteran Jo Durr in three sets. While Capriati survived, the women's singles lost its first seed, French number one Mary Pierce had to withdraw because of a high temperature only hours before she was due to make her Wimbledon debut. Conchita Martinez, the sixth seed, and former finalist Zina Garrison Jackson both came through in straight sets against Ginger Hegelson and Sabine Hack. Katerina Maleeva became the first of the women's seeds to fall on court when she lost in three sets to Natalia Zvereva. The Belarussian, a former French Open finalist, beat the

WIMBLEDON NOTEBOOK

★ Educating Jennifer: Can a two-time Wimbledon doubles champion teach Jennifer Capriati about winning on grass? Capriati has hired Australian Paul McNamee to reveal the secrets of playing the lawn to the Floridian, who is still looking for her first grand slam title. McNamee knows plenty about grass courts — he won the doubles here in 1980 and 1992 with countryman Peter McNamara. "You know he's pretty good on grass," Capriati said after her 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, 6-1 first-round victory over Britain's Shiri-Ann Siddall. "I mean, he's Australian, he was basically born on it."

have to be a bit more aggressive. If you want to be rewarded on grass, you have to focus on that." ★ Outsider Ivan has big backer: Wimbledon is the only Grand Slam event Ivan Lendl has not won. Yet a bettor has backed the No. 7 seed with a 1,000-pound (\$1,500) stake at odds of 100-1 to win the title. The bettor stands to win 100,000 pounds (\$150,000) if Lendl wins. But he hopes for better luck than last year, when he placed a similar bet on unseeded Dutch player Brenda Schultz at 200-1 to win the women's title. She was the first player to be knocked out on day one. ★ Favourites are fastest: The two favourites to reach the women's final — Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova — are running a dead heat for the fastest women's serve on centre court after two days of play. Both players — the only Wimbledon champions in the women's draw — were clocked at exactly 100 mph (161 kph) in their opening matches Tuesday. Marc Goellner of Germany has clocked the fastest men's serve on centre court, but his 125 mph (201 kph) delivery Tuesday was not enough for him to overcome countryman Boris Becker.

Japanese get more kicks from soccer

TOKYO (R) — A sports-mad teenager who wants to take part in Japan's high school baseball championship first asks himself: "Do I mind shaving almost all my hair off so I look like a monk?" Then, before each game, he has to march in line behind a standard bearer to military-style school songs. If he is caught smoking — in school or out — the whole team is disqualified. During the game, he must be careful not to celebrate home runs too much or the points are disallowed. Now, for young Japanese who are tired of the military style and strict discipline of baseball, there is an alternative — soccer. "You can be more of an individual in soccer," said Masaaki Sumino, 18, who plays the game every Saturday afternoon. "You see players in high school soccer games with their hair dyed blond — that's unthinkable in baseball." This sense of fun and freedom extends not only to school soccer but also to the players and spectators of Japan's new professional league, which kicked off in mid-May. Previously, the absence of a professional league meant the most athletically talented schoolboys gravitated to baseball, traditionally the nation's number one spectator sport. Now the professional J. League is up, running and drawing packed stadiums amid a blaze of publicity, many Japanese are finding it a pleasant contrast to baseball. While baseball fans chant at the command of an appointed cheerleader, soccer fans paint their faces, blow boosters, wave banners and perform Mexican waves. Hair styles on the field range from military crew cut to pop star perm and rastafrican dreadlocks, with a special cheer for Rui Ramos, a native of Brazil and now a Japanese citizen, who boasts a beard and a bumpy rug of long, tangled hair. Some players celebrate goals with wild dances in front of their supporters. Professional baseball is eerily similar to life in a Japanese business company. Players are expected to look and behave like the rest of the group, which means a short-back-and-sides and no answering back. "Baseball is about managing people and shutting out outsiders," wrote a teacher to the daily Asahi Shimbun. "It's a microcosm of present Japanese society. There is long hair and dyed hair in soccer, which is very different from the sports crop of most baseball players." The spartan world of baseball suited the ethos of the old Japan in which it was born — the grim industrialism of the economic miracle and the militarism before 1945, where disciplined groups were seen as the best way to fight off a hostile outside world. In the 1990s it is a different country. Many Japanese feel more relaxed and confident and want to enjoy themselves more freely and spontaneously. The popularity of soccer may be catering to that need. Kiwamu Kabe, who covered Japan's most popular baseball team, the Yomiuri Giants, for a leading tabloid newspaper, and now edits a soccer magazine, puts the differences down to the foreign influence on soccer which is missing in baseball. Despite baseball's U.S. origins, Americans and Japanese assert that they play essentially different games. The few international competitions are for amateurs. "Japanese baseball has been shut off from the outside world," said Kabe.

China hits back over human rights

LAUSANNE (AFP) — China hit back Wednesday at a growing campaign to try and kill off Beijing's bid to host the 2000 Olympics because of its human rights record. The riposte came a day after an anti-Beijing letter from New Jersey senator Bill Bradley, an Olympic gold medalist in 1964, was distributed at the International Olympic Committee meeting here. But Zhang Bai-Jia, deputy mayor of Beijing, argued before the IOC that the fundamental human right was to food. "Our government has also respected human rights but we have different conceptions and views," he said. "The most important human right for China is to provide food to almost 1.5 billion people. That's our main concern." Bradley's letter to IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch was distributed here by a lawyer representing an American Lobby, Human Rights Watch. "Holding the Games in China, while its government routinely imprisons and tortures peaceful political dissidents, would confer upon China's leaders a stamp of approval by the international community which they clearly do not deserve," Bradley argued. The House of Representatives in Washington has also come out against Beijing. But he Zhenliang, the IOC first vice-president and head of the Chinese Olympic Committee, said the campaign has failed to impress here. "These initiatives have been very badly received by members of the IOC because it is dealing a blow to the Olympic principles. They have told me that it is unacceptable and have said so in the press. "This will not shake our confidence and we certainly remain hopeful of winning in Monaco," he said. The IOC will choose the host city September 23 at a meeting in the Principality. Beijing, Sydney and Manchester are front runners in a race which also includes Brasilia and Istanbul. China has pledged to spend \$50 billion improving the infrastructure throughout the country and \$3.4 billion on telecommunications and transport in Beijing if their bid is successful. Senior Olympic officials already complained against the anti-Beijing campaign, saying that it is unwarranted interference.

Sevilla refuse to pay Maradona

SEVILLE (R) — Sevilla have refused to pay Diego Maradona the million dollars owed to him on his one-year contract. The Spanish club said Tuesday their lawyers had notified the former Argentine captain the 140 million pesetas (about \$1.1 million) payment was being withheld because Maradona had "not met his obligations to the club due to his disordered life." A Sevilla statement said Maradona had not appeared for training and had failed to fulfil commitments because of his bad image and his poor physical condition, discrediting the club. "The club have not formally rescinded Maradona's contract," Maradona joined Sevilla from a controversial transfer after he had completed a 15-month world ban from soccer for drug abuse. The stocky midfielder, who has looked overweight and slow in his appearances for the Andalusian club, has missed most of Sevilla's recent games.

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♥ Q
♦ J 9 8 3
♣ A J 9 8 7 3 2

WEST
♠ 9 7 4
♥ A K 9 7 6 3 2
♦ 5 4 2
♣ Void

EAST
♠ Q 8 5 2
♥ K 6
♦ J 8 5 4
♣ Q 10 6 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A J 10 3
♥ J 8 5 4
♦ A Q 10 7
♣ K

The bidding:
South West North East
1 3 Pass Pass
4 Pass 4 Pass
Pass Pass 5 Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

The Summer North American Championships in Toronto proved to be a mother lode of uncommon results, including this one. Defeating against five diamonds, which was defeated three tricks, Barry Harper of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, scored two tricks as West by ruffing. The first was a club ruff. Can you guess what the other was? South's double of three hearts was for takeout. Four clubs doubled

would have made, declarer losing two trumps and a heart. As so often happens when you try to "rescue" partner, South's effort led to disaster. Kudos to all who selected a heart as West's second ruff. Here's how the play developed. West led the king of hearts and shifted to a spade, taken by the ace. Declarer ruffed a heart low, fully and East over-ruffed cheaply. The club return was ruffed by West and another heart came back, ruffed and overruffed. East tried another club, and this time West could not overruff, instead discarding a heart. Now came a spade ruff in dummy and another club ruff in hand. West parting with another heart. Declarer then exited with the jack of spades. East won and returned a club. Declarer ruffed with the queen of trumps as West discarded a third heart. When declarer tried to cash the ten of spades, West ruffed to force dummy's last trump, then discarded the club with the ace of diamonds. The last trick consisted of declarer's jack of hearts, ruffed by West as dummy and East each contributed a black card. Truth is stranger than fiction.

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New 'ethnic cleansing' reported in central Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Renewed outbreaks of fighting between Muslim and Croat forces in central Bosnia have brought reports of a new round of "ethnic cleansing," U.N. officials said Wednesday.

In the latest incident, Muslim villages near the town of Vares were believed to have been cleared of their populations by Bosnian Croat Forces (HVO), the officials said.

"We know that round about the Vares area, the HVO has been terrorising Muslims in the villages and suggesting they should leave," said U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokeswoman Colonel Tricia Purves.

"Yesterday, it went a bit further and we understand that in three villages the families were forcibly moved out."

She said UNPROFOR had no direct knowledge of the incident, but reports from people fleeing the villages suggested that it was true.

Vares is 50 kilometres north of the besieged capital Sarajevo in central Bosnia, which is the probable location for a Muslim state that would be created under an ethnic division of the former Yugoslav republic proposed by the Serbs and Croats.

The division of Bosnia into Serb, Croat and Muslim states was being discussed at peace talks which opened in Geneva Wednesday under the chairmanship of international

mediators Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen.

Croats and Muslims have been fighting in central Bosnia to expand their territory with a view to increasing the size of their future states.

"Ethnic cleansing" — the forcible removal of one ethnic group by another — has generally been blamed on the Bosnian Serbs.

But since the breakdown in their alliance against the Serbs, warring Muslim and Croat forces have been increasingly accused of employing the practice to consolidate territorial gains in disputed areas of central Bosnia.

Russia said Wednesday that territorial gains achieved by force or "ethnic cleansing" must not be rewarded in any settlement of the Bosnian conflict.

A foreign ministry statement listed seven conditions for a solid and viable peace plan, including "the inadmissibility of consolidating territorial or other gains achieved with the help of force or as a result of ethnic cleansing."

Russia, a key player in the crisis because of its traditional close ties to Serbia, said it hoped a final peace agreement could be reached at the Geneva talks.

Serbs and Croats were to exchange 279 prisoners Wednesday at Celic in southwest Bosnia-Herzegovina, the agency Tanjug said.

The Croats agreed to release 114 Serbs imprisoned in Croatia and 511 others arrested in territories

under Croat control in Bosnia.

For their part, the Serbs agreed to free 125 Croats held in Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia.

The exchange was agreed during a meeting held last week in Pakrac, west Croatia, between representatives from Croatia, and Bosnian Serbs and Croats.

The leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, also announced Tuesday during an interview with the daily paper Vecernje Novosti that he had reached an agreement with his Bosnian Croat counterpart, Mate Boban, for a swap of civilian prisoners during a meeting held in Montenegro on Sunday.

Mr. Karadzic said 8,000 Bosnian Serbs from the south of the country were to be transferred to areas under Serb control.

At least nine people were killed and eight injured in Serb shelling on the central Bosnian town of Zenica, northwest of here, Sarajevo Radio said Wednesday.

Four shells fell on downtown Zenica, a Muslim-held town, from Serb positions in the hills overlooking this town of 100,000 residents, the report said.

In all, three shells hit during the night and two Wednesday morning, according to the radio.

Zenica was also shelled Monday evening, despite the latest ceasefire which took effect across Bosnia-Herzegovina last Friday but has been breached in a number of areas.



VIOLENT LAWMAKING: Lawmakers from the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) comforts Huang Chao-hui, also a DPP legislator, who bleeds from a head wound sustained from violent clashes with Shih Tai-sheng from the ruling Kuomintang at the budget committee Wednesday during a debate on construction of Taiwan's fourth power plant (AFP photo)

Egypt warns of escalation as Sudan closes consulates

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt warned on Wednesday that Sudan's closure of Egyptian consulates marked an "escalation" in the crisis between the two neighbours over the disputed territory of Halaib.

"This escalation will only lead to another, but we hope reason will prevail and that bridges will remain open," said Foreign Minister Amr Musa, quoted by Al-Ahram newspaper.

Mr. Musa said the decision was a "mistake".

Ahead of next week's Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Cairo, Sudan on Tuesday ordered the closure of two consulates in Sudan on suspicion of espionage as well as Sudanese consulates in Egypt.

Sudanese Foreign Under-Secretary Omer Yousef Bridou told a press briefing that his government had ordered Egypt to close the consulates in Port Sudan and Al Obied within a week.

Mr. Bridou said Sudan had monitored activities by the consulates that were inconsistent with their diplomatic status.

The consulates have engineered conspiracies against Sudan's security, territorial integrity and sovereignty, he said without elaborating.

Mr. Bridou said Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu Salih sent a message Friday to the U.N. Security Council complaining that Egypt had violated Sudanese sovereignty and international norms by unilaterally demarcating a disputed border by de-

ploying extra troops.

Mr. Abu Salih appealed to the council, said Mr. Bridou, to contain what he called an explosive situation in the disputed territory of Halaib.

The minister asked the United Nations to persuade Egypt to withdraw its troops from Halaib to allow for a negotiated settlement on the territory, which both countries claim.

Sudan is expected to bring up the land dispute at the OAU summit. The two countries are also at odds over Egyptian charges that Khartoum is backing Islamic militants in their war on the government.

In Cairo for a preliminary OAU foreign ministers' conference, Mr. Abu Salih told the official Egyptian news agency MENA late Tuesday that he would have to consult his embassy over the closure of consulates.

MENA said he "looked surprised" by Khartoum's decision.

The Egyptian and Sudanese foreign ministers have held two meetings since Sunday but apparently without a breakthrough on the land dispute, which erupted in late 1991 when Sudan granted a concession to a Canadian oil firm.

Sudan has since placed long-established Egyptian schools in the country under its control along with the Khartoum section of Cairo University.

It also ordered the return from Egypt of Sudanese students after Cairo arrested 31 Sudanese in May, three of them on charges of spying for Khartoum and Iran.

Tehran police raid teenage party and arrest 30 dancers

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Police raided a party in a west Tehran home and arrested more than 30 dancing teenagers as part of a crackdown on "social corruption," Jomhuri Islami newspaper reported Wednesday.

Eleven girls and twenty-one boys were caught in an "ugly and repulsive condition," it said. The paper did not specify when the raid, part of a crackdown since Monday, took place.

"Boys and girls were dancing and cavorting in mixed company and half-naked," it said, implying the females were not covered up in line with the Islamic dress code.

Police, who were tipped off by a telephone caller, found alcohol, a video camera and 46 "decadent" video cassettes, the Islamic conservative daily said, referring to Western movies.

It said around 500 women were arrested Monday and Tuesday in the crackdown aimed at enforcing the dress code and stemming the flow of Western culture into the country.

The women would be freed after pledging not to repeat their offence. But they could receive harsher punishment if arrested a second time, Jomhuri warned.

It urged judges to hand down tougher sentences and blasted the country's educational system for failing to stop the young from pursuing Western trends.

"Eighty per cent of the women who were arrested in the past couple of days were under 18, meaning they have received their education after the revolution and are supposed to have had an Islamic upbringing," the paper said.

The crackdown, coinciding with the start of the Shi'ite Muslim mourning month of Moharram, appeared to be the biggest in several years.

Tehran's police commander, Abdullah Oghabai, has warned his forces "would not be responsible if they acted violently against those who persist on their corruption."

"Some people do not want to understand that there has been an Islamic revolution in this country," he said.

A police statement warned Sunday that women who disregarded the dress code could face arrest and trial if spotted in the streets or passing cars.

Iran has been ruled by Islamic law, since the 1979 revolution which toppled the pro-Western Shah. Under the dress code, women must wear the black chador or long raincoats and scarves to conceal their hair.

Following the recent wave of crackdown on women, Maryam Rajavi the secretary general of the rebel Mujahideen-e-Khalq organisation, addressed a message to Iranian women, urging them to actively defy "brutal attacks" by the regime's agents.

Mrs. Rajavi said: "In the wake of the failure of the June 11 sham elections and its nationwide boycott, and fearful of the escalating public discontent and popular demonstrations, the mullahs have launched an extensive wave of arrests on the pretext of 'promotion of virtue and prohibition of vice.'"

In the past Iranian women have been flogged, fined, or jailed for violating the dress code which requires women to show no more than their face and hands in public.

Jordan played significant role in Vienna conference, Sharif Fawwaz reports

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian delegation to the World Conference on Human Rights which opened in Vienna June 14 returned to Amman Wednesday.

Head of the delegation Sharif Fawwaz said the Jordanian delegation dealt with all issues in the conference with confidence, basing its stands on free democratic manner.

"We explained that Jordan was heading to a new general elections and this event was highlighted in several occasions during the work of the conference to affirm Jordan's real role in the field of human rights," Sharif Fawwaz said.

"Jordan does not adopt these stands for propaganda reasons — but because these positions stem from Jordan's real experience which is witnessed by the Jordanian citizens," he added.

He said that human rights organisations commended Jordan's stands on human rights and expressed respect for these stands.

He said several times he voiced the Kingdom's support for non-governmental organisations, underlining that the Jordanian delegation itself included several figures from non-governmental human rights organisations.

Sharif Fawwaz said the address delivered by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the outset of the conference was received with attention and respect "because it was an important one in which the Crown Prince expressed the Kingdom's views on human rights issues."

The conference, he said, proceeded well to success, adding that the Jordanian participation had an effective role in the works of the conference.

"Since the start, I contacted heads of delegations representing various Arab, Islamic and friendly states at bilateral and group levels to coordinate stands to pursue fruitful cooperation.

These endeavours, which were similar to Jordan's democratisation experiment... had a great influence in leading the conference to the success it achieved."

Of the most prominent events at the conference, he said, was the general stand on the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue after the Bosnian foreign minister delivered an address criticising selectivity in implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions and double standards adopted in dealing with international issues.

Following that, all the states including Jordan sought to adopt a proposal calling on the U.N. Security Council to protect the Muslims of Bosnia, he said.

He said some newspapers were attempting to minimise the role of the conference and its achievements, affirming that those who wrote in such a manner were viewing the conference from a personal angle and thinking that it would not achieve their personal goals which are based to a certain extent on mixing human rights with their countries' political positions.

At the conference a lot of concern has emerged in economic rights and development since they are of the people's rights and part of the human rights, he said, citing as an example the U.S. support for the social and economic charter.

Sharif Fawwaz said "high spirits" which characterised the conference in which more than 169 world countries and 900 non-governmental organisations participated.

Grenade hurled at Israeli military HQ in Ramallah

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Unknown assailants on Wednesday threw a grenade at the headquarters of the Israeli military administration in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah.

The army opened an investigation into the explosion which caused light damage to the building but caused no injuries, a spokesman said.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, claimed responsibility for the attack.

In a statement from Damascus, the DFLP said its fighters wounded some people and returned safely to their "bases."

"Our heroes will pursue their struggle against the occupation forces until the closure of the occupied territories is ended and until Palestinian national rights are recognised," it said.

Israel cut off the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israel at the end of March to curb growing violence against Israelis.

Two children were shot and injured by Israeli soldiers and one man was killed by fellow Palestinians Tuesday in the occupied Gaza Strip, according to Arab reporters.

The two children, cousins aged one and two, sustained bullet wounds in their legs when the army opened fire at stone-throwing youths.

The unrest followed the arrest of Attiah Hashash, 15, in Rafah refugee camp. Arab reporters count 35 youths arrested in Rafah over the past three days.

Israeli human rights activists have criticised the military for the escalating toll among children over the past months, with 12 children under age of 14 shot dead between May and December.

Prison wedding for killer

An Israeli jailed for life for shooting dead seven Palestinians married his Canadian girlfriend and consummated the marriage before returning alone to his prison cell on Wednesday.

Ami Popper wed Sara Goldberg at Ayalon prison near Tel Aviv on Tuesday. The couple were allowed one night together in a special prison room.

The ceremony, complete with wine, food and dancing, was attended by 70 guests including Joseph Alster of the anti-Arab Kach movement.

Popper, 24, ignited Arab-Jewish violence and brought world condemnation on Israel in May 1990 when he shot into a crowd of Palestinian workers in Rishon LeZion near Tel Aviv with an assault rifle, killing seven and wounding 10.

In subsequent clashes in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank, Israeli soldiers shot dead 14 more Palestinians. The United States vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a U.N. fact-finding tour to look into the unrest.

An Israeli court sentenced Popper to seven life terms plus 20 years in 1991.

Study: U.S. could fight 2 major wars concurrently

By Robert Burns
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A study prepared for the U.S. Air Force says the U.S. military could fight and win two wars on the scale of the 1991 war against Iraq even with the smaller defence force proposed by the Clinton administration.

The study by RAN Corporation is part of a debate on how much U.S. defence spending can be cut with the end of the cold war and leave the country with enough military strength to meet the goal of fighting and winning two major regional wars at the same time.

The study coincides with a comprehensive "bottom up review" of U.S. defence policy by Defence Secretary Les Aspin to match the war-fighting strategy with shrinking defence dollars.

It said the key to maintaining military superiority into the 21st century is equipping existing aircraft and other forces with new "brilliant" munitions and expanding U.S. seafair and airfair.

The study assessed by a U.S. response to two imagined, concurrent crises — a large-scale invasion of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia by a rearmad Iraq, followed by a North Korean invasion of South Korea. The attacks were assumed to take place after 1997, when U.S. forces would be much smaller in number but equipped with more advanced weapons.

The study concluded that U.S. forces equipped with existing munitions could stop a large-scale Iraqi invasion in nine to 14 days, but not before the Iraqis came within striking distance of Dhahran, the critical eastern Saudi oil port. With advanced munitions, the invasion could be stopped in few days.

If the Korean invasion came three weeks or more after the start of the Iraqi assault, U.S. air, sea and ground forces not already engaged in the Gulf could link up with U.S. army forces permanently stationed on the Korean Peninsula and bait the Korean onslaught quickly enough to turn it back, the study concluded.

Li Peng in hospital again

HONG KONG (AFP) — Chinese Premier Li Peng is back in hospital in Peking, suffering from a flu, but he still plans to meet Australian counterpart Paul Keating, a Hong Kong newspaper said Wednesday. Mr. Li, 65, who spent nearly two months in hospital with what Chinese officials insisted was a cold, was readmitted to hospital Monday.

The Ming Pao daily said quoting sources in the Chinese capital. Though his condition was considered not serious, Mr. Li was worried that the virus might complicate a heart condition, the sources said. Doctors caring for Mr. Li believed he would be able to return to work as usual at the end of this month, although they want him to cut down his workload and end his habit of working at night.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gulf war veterans develop 'radiation sickness'

LONDON (AFP) — Hundreds of British Gulf war veterans are developing radiation sickness, including infections, fatigue, and in some cases bleeding gums, hair loss and facial paralysis, the Today newspaper reported Wednesday. The report said that similar symptoms had affected 14,000 veterans in the United States. A dozen British victims could have suffered damage to their immune system caused by exposure to uranium-tipped weapons, toxic fumes from Kuwait oil fires or Iraqi nerve gas, Today said. The paper said the radiation could have come from depleted uranium used on tankbusting missiles fired by the U.S. Thunderbolt planes. The missiles fragment on impact, releasing particles into the atmosphere, it said.

PLO, Israeli youth leaders meet in Sweden

STOCKHOLM (R) — Leaders of youth groups from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israeli Labour Party began a three-day meeting to discuss the preconditions for Middle East peace Tuesday, the news agency TT reported. The Swedish foreign ministry supplied last-minute visas for the two delegations but the conference was arranged by the SSU, youth wing of the opposition Social Democratic Party. Ofer Dekel, general secretary of the Israeli Labour Party's youth wing, and Samir Subaih, chairman of the Tunis-based Palestinian Student Organisation, led the two delegations at a lakeside conference centre near Stockholm.

Israel-North Korea meeting in next few days

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli delegation will meet with North Korean officials in the next few days to try to talk them out of selling medium-range missiles to Iran, a foreign ministry official said Wednesday. The meeting is to take place by early next week, likely in Peking, said foreign ministry spokesman Rafi Gamzu. North Korea plans to sell medium-range Rodong 1 missiles, also known as Scud-DS, to Iran. The missile has a range of 1,000 kilometres and could reach Israel from Iran. Israel will tell the North Koreans that they are better off improving their trade and reputation with the West Bank than doing business with outcast regimes.

Burglar with AIDS scares off Israeli police

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A burglar with AIDS has escaped arrest by cutting himself and threaten to smear police officers with his infected blood, a police spokesman said Wednesday. Officers armed with a warrant failed to arrest the 30-year-old in Haifa Wednesday when he slashed his hand. "It's not the first time he has done this," Haifa police spokesman Mouki Zamborg told AFP. "this man is known to have the disease and it's a problem to put him in jail. We will have to put him in an isolation cell and for the moment we don't have one." Mr. Zamborg said the burglar had already served time in jail and was suspected of dealing in drugs as well. He had been identified breaking into a flat in Haifa last week.

MSF warns of food crisis in Ethiopia's Ogaden

NAIROBI (AFP) — International aid agency, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) has warned of alarming food shortages in Ethiopia's Ogaden and called for urgent international relief assistance for the southeastern desert region. In a statement, (Doctors Without Borders) said a survey around Gode camp, where 44,000 people, mainly displaced and returnees are settled, showed that 44.4 per cent of children under 110 centimetres in height were malnourished, while 13.4 of them were suffering from severe malnutrition.

North Korea again snubs talks

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea again scuttled plans to hold working-level talks with the South by failing Wednesday to respond to a proposal from Seoul, a government official here said. A national unification board official said the North's failure to respond to Seoul's proposal before the hotline at the border truce village of Panmunjom shut down for the day made the talks, planned for Thursday, highly unlikely. It was the latest in a month-long flurry of messages and counter-messages aimed at restarting talks which have been frozen since January.

U.S. to press UNITA to resume talks

LUANDA (AFP) — The United States is going to try to persuade the rebel movement UNITA to resume peace talks with the Angolan government, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, George Moose, said here Wednesday. He said the official inauguration of the American embassy Tuesday during his two-day stay marked U.S. commitment to democracy in Angola.

Israel to revive camel patrol for Sinai

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army is to revive its camel-back patrols to guard the border with Egypt in the Sinai desert, a military source said Wednesday. The source said the main task of the small unit would be to combat bedouin smugglers bringing goods in from Egypt. "Jeep patrols have proved more or less ineffective against these smugglers because of the geography," he said. The army had a camel-back patrol trained by Israeli bedouins but it was scrapped shortly after the Sinai's return to Egypt in 1982.